OSCAR WEEKEND IN THE BEST VALUE SATURDAY PAPER



THE TIMES

40P

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Greenwich site sealed by concrete cap

Lethal Dome waste dumped in villages

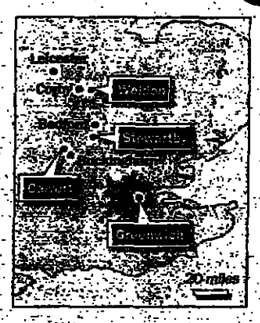
BY MARK HENDERSON, DOMINIC KENNEDY AND STEPHEN FARRELL

MORE THAN 200,000 tonnes of potentially lethal waste have been buried near three villages in the English countryside as part of a "rush job" to clean up the Millennium Dome site.

The controversial clean-up of the former gasworks in Greenwich, where the Dome and a showpiece "environmentally friendly" village of 5,000 homes is being built, has involved excavating 15 metres of contaminated soil. But even so, the underlying earth is so dangerous that it has had to be sealed with crushed concrete, plastic and clay. A gas-tight membrane is needed beneath any buildings and a layer of bright orange netting has been buried under the clean soil across the peninsula to mark the poisonous earth.

Environmental experts say that new techniques that treat waste on the spot and remove pollutants forever should have been used to protect future generations.

Martin Kendall, a toxic waste treatment specialist for the independent International Bioremediation Services, said the "dig and dump" method was necessary only because of the 2000 deadline. A slower biological treatment process would have left the area



cleaner for the next millennium had there been more time.

As it is, more than 200,000 tonnes of arsenic, cyanides and asbestos have been buried in dumps in Calvert, Buckinghamshire, Stewartby, Bedfordshire, and Weldon, Northamptonshire. Other landfills in the Home Counties have also been needed to take less poisonous waste.

The waste has come from what was Europe's largest gasworks, which were established on Bugsby's Marsh, Greenwich, in the 1890s. The works made coal gas, which was used for heating and lighting until the advent of non-toxic natural gas in the 1970s. The spot where the Millennium Exhibition is to be held was used for gas scrubbing and purification. That involved passing gas through crushed chalk, which absorbed arsenic, cyanide and other poisons before being buried 12 ft deep along with waste tar and benzene.

British Gas spent £20 million on cleaning the site before selling it to the government agency English Partnerships for a similar sum in 1997. Simon Wright of English Partnerships said that the land was safe for home-building and hosting an exhibition. "It is wholly fit for the end use, and there is no danger of contamination," he said.

But Martin Childs of Friends of the Earth, said: "It is not going to poison anyone in the short term, but capping pollution and burying it in landfills do not solve the problem for all time. Everything leaks in the end."

There was also criticism of the decision to dump the Dome waste so far away. Ben Smith, Conservative environment spokesman on Northamptonshire County Council, said: "Sending toxic waste around the country on lorries is not a good idea."

The Weldon site is just outside the village, as is the one in Stewartby. The Calvert landfill is a mile from the nearest houses. But Geoff Smallwood of Shanks & McEwan, which operates the Calvert and Stewartby sites, insisted that there was no risk to villagers and that the clay-lined dumps were among the safest in the world.

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Richard Burton's widow Sally at an auction of her husband's books which made £14,350 for theatrical charities

The Times: Number one on campus

■ *The Times* is now firmly established as the favourite newspaper for students at top British universities. In the latest research into undergraduate reading habits, sponsored by Channel 4 and *Marketing* magazine, *The Times* is without rival as the favourite newspaper for Britain's 230,000 students.

■ *The Times* is regularly read by one third of university students, according to research by the company High Fliers among undergraduates at 19 of Britain's top universities. Fewer than one in five students reads *The Daily Telegraph*. *The Guardian*, traditionally assumed to be the students' favourite paper, is in fact read by only one in four students.

■ The survey of reading habits is based upon a sample of nearly 50,000 university first degree finalists from universities which the leading graduate employers rate most highly and whose students stand the best chance of finding employment after graduation.

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Aitken tells family of prison fear

BY ANDREW PEARCE POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JONATHAN AITKEN has told his family he fears a prison sentence after his arrest this week. The revelation came from his mother, the Hon Lady Aitken, 86, the first member of the family to speak publicly about the events.

"We have talked about prison," Lady Aitken said. "I have a deep, groaning, feeling inside about how terrible it is going to be for Jonathan."

Mr Aitken, whose teenage daughter was also arrested this week, is selling his homes and looking for alternative accommodation for his three children. Asked about the arrest of Victoria, 17, on Monday, Lady Aitken said: "It was the worst and stupidest mistake of his life."

Lady Aitken said her son was distraught about the arrest of his daughter. "It is on his conscience." She described the fall from grace of her only son as "a terrible tragedy".

House of Aitken, page 20
Valerie Grove, page 21

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Tube plans prompt fare rise fears

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RADICAL plans to inject £7 billion into London Underground, mainly from the private sector, yesterday won strong City support but prompted fare rise fears.

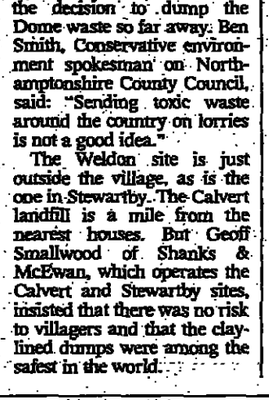
John Prescott announced long-awaited proposals to involve the private sector in running the underfunded Tube system, which will also receive an additional £365 million of taxpayers' money over the next two years.

The Deputy Prime Minister said private firms will be invited to take over the running of track and the supply of new rolling stock. Trains will still be operated by the public sector, which will pay charges to the private investors.

Mr Prescott announced that the extra £365 million, combined with existing spending plans, would generate almost £1 billion over the next two years before the private sector steps in to modernise the network. The moves are in response to a £1.2 billion investment backlog that has built up over ten years.

However, Mr Prescott was unable to give firm assurances about the possible impact on fares and jobs, prompting suggestions that the private sector may need to cut staff numbers or force higher fares to make an investment viable.

Under the plans, ministers will invite bids to break the infrastructure into one, two or three sections, with private investment being pledged over 15 years. Those taking over the running will not own the infrastructure, getting a limited concession — of between 25 and 35 years — before the assets return to the state.



London Underground managers have opposed any form of privatisation, originally favoured by the Treasury, but yesterday welcomed the proposals.

Labour ruled out "wholesale privatisation" in the run-up to the last election, and Mr Prescott denied his proposals represented even a partial privatisation. His "third way" would, he said, bring an "imaginative and long-term solution" to underfunding.

However, up to a quarter of the 16,000 staff will be transferred from London Underground to work for the successful bidders, prompting City suggestions that the scheme was "virtual privatisation" of the infrastructure.

Ken Livingstone, the Labour MP who was in charge of the Tube when leader of the now defunct Greater London Council, said: "It's not as bad as full privatisation would have been. But it is like taking out a mortgage and you end up paying a lot more through a mortgage than if you can buy the thing outright."

London Underground, which becomes directly accountable to the Greater London Authority in 2000, will still be responsible for operating services, including ticketing, fares and signalling. Private contractors will be responsible for maintenance, refurbishing stations, replacing tracks, upgrading signalling and refurbishing or replacing trains.

Several big players in the railway and construction industries are known to be keen, including GEC Alsthom, Railtrack, Amec and Bechtel. Two-thirds of the network is above ground, and much of it is shared with the Railtrack-maintained railways.

BBC may lose Test matches to satellite

BY NICHOLAS WATT POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is facing the loss of its right to screen ball-by-ball coverage of England's home Test matches, depriving millions of uninterrupted viewing of the summer game, it emerged yesterday.

Cricket supporters and politicians reacted angrily after a Government-appointed working group recommended that Test matches should no longer qualify as one of the "crown jewels" which must be shown on BBC or ITV.

Lord Howell, who was appointed the first Sports Minister in the 1970s, said he was "flabbergasted" because millions of cricket lovers could not afford to "pay through the nose" to watch the sport on satellite television.

Under the group's radical plans, the "crown jewels" would be broken into an "A" list, which would remain on terrestrial television, and a "B" list, which could be shown live on satellite or cable television.

The "B" list would include all Test matches involving England. At the moment, matches played in England are listed while those played abroad can be screened on satellite television. The present series in the West Indies is being shown by BSkyB.

On Test matches the independent advisory group said: "A Test series played over 30 days cannot be said to be a shared point on the national calendar. We believe that it is difficult for generally available terrestrial broadcasters to schedule the Tests in full without being unfair to viewers who do not take an interest in cricket."

The "A" list, which guarantees live coverage on BBC, ITV or Channel 4 of events with "national resonance", includes the Olympic Games, the Wimbledon finals, the FA Cup Final, the Grand National and the Derby.

The Advisory Group on Listed Events, which included Jack Charlton, the broadcaster Michael Parkinson and the Olympic athlete Steve Cram, said it recognised that televised sport aroused "strong emotions". In their report the group said that retaining the "crown jewels" would be hugely popular. The report said: "The great majority of the population who do not at the moment subscribe to satellite or cable services sometimes feel that they are

Continued on page 2, col 5

French strike closes tunnel

Thousands of British tourists and lorry drivers suffered long delays to cross-Channel journeys yesterday when French strikers blockaded the Channel Tunnel and the port of Calais. Ferries were rerouted to Belgium because of the 24-hour strike, called in protest at EU plans to abolish duty free sales.

Flight danger for babies

The broadcaster Anne Diamond said that her blood ran cold when she heard about research showing that long-haul flights could put babies at risk of cot death. Her son Sebastian was found dead two days after flying back from holiday in Cyprus...Page 5

Wild day on stock market

Wild fluctuations in the stock market — which led to the FTSE 100 being suspended for five minutes — overshadowed a day when the index went through the 6000 mark. The index, which closed down 41.6 at 5956.3, had touched 6105 .....Page 27

Rain holds up last Test

Rain disrupted most of the first day's play of the last Test in Antigua yesterday. After a delayed start England, put into bat by West Indies, were 25-0 at lunch. But the whole of the afternoon session was washed out .....Page 33

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هكذا من الأصل



NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES

MONDAY

PINK – THE HOT COLOUR THIS SUMMER

PLUS: Under the skin of sport

All the weekend action

Rugby: England v Scotland

Cricket: West Indies v England

TUESDAY

Holy Russia:
Richard Cork at the Royal Academy

WEDNESDAY

Inter//face

Online with Anna Friel

Plus: Crème – best for jobs





THURSDAY

Cinema: Rasputin, revolution and the Romanovs

Geoff Brown on Anastasia

FRIDAY

The latest in rock and pop
with Caitlin Moran and David Sinclair

SATURDAY

In your 100-page glossy magazine

LOVE, BETRAYAL AND WOMEN
by Clint Eastwood



'Ministry blocked controls on BSE-infected cattle feed'

Inquiry documents show that epidemic could have been limited, writes **Michael Hornsby**

The "mad cow" epidemic that has killed 171,000 cattle could have been curtailed if controls on potentially infected feed had not been scuppered by the Ministry of Agriculture, it was disclosed yesterday.

A reluctance by the ministry, then headed by Gillian Shephard, not to undermine the Thatcher Government's deregulation policy by imposing extra constraints on the animal feed industry culminated in allowing the disease to spread, documents obtained by the BSE inquiry show.

In pursuing this approach, the ministry overrode the misgivings of the Department of Health and the recommendation of a government-appointed group of experts which it had accepted 18 months earlier under John Gummer. The group proposed the creation of a permanent advisory committee on feedstuffs, because of concern that the ban on feeding cattle with ruminant meat and bone meal was not being fully observed.

Use of such feed had been prohibited in July 1988 because of scientific evidence that it was the most likely route by which BSE had passed to and then spread among cattle. It is now known that thousands of cattle were exposed to infected feed after the ban.

Eric Lamming, Emeritus Professor of Animal Physiology at Nottingham University, who chaired the group, told the inquiry yesterday of his dismay at learning in December 1993 that the Government had "backtracked" on the feedstuffs committee proposal it had accepted in June, 1992.

"I was certainly very disappointed," Professor Lamming said. "But I felt that we were not empowered to object to what was actually occurring."

Nicholas Soames, then the junior Agriculture Minister with responsibility for food safety, told the Commons at the end of 1993 that the Government had decided that existing committees could advise adequately on feedstuffs. In an internal letter sent to Baroness Cumberlege, a junior Health Minister, in late July of the same year, Mr Soames wrote: "The main thing that worries me is that if we set up the proposed committee it is almost bound to recommend tightening regulations or other forms of controls."

The letter was among documents obtained by the inquiry. These show that by early July, 1993, Ministry of Agriculture and Department of Health officials had come up with proposals for the membership of a feedstuffs committee. Later that same month, however, the Ministry of Agriculture's Food Safety Group, effectively scuppered the proposals by refusing to recommend them to ministers.

An internal memo circulated by Brian Dickinson, then the head of the Food Safety Group, said: "A committee of the kind proposed is almost bound to recommend, at some stage, changes in regulations or the way in which the feeding-stuffs industry operates. To set up the committee would, therefore, add to the pressure for regulation when we are trying to go the other way."

Colin Maclean, now director of the Meat and Livestock Commission, who was another member of the Lamming expert group, told the inquiry that he and his colleagues had been worried. "We were beginning to get hints that the integrity of the feed ban was not perfect," he said.

Professor Lamming told how three years later, in June, 1996, he had again written to the Minister of Agriculture, then Douglas Hogg, to urge the need for an independent feedstuffs committee. Two months later Mr Hogg's private secretary, Marcus Nisbet, replied, repeating the earlier reasons for refusing to set up the committee.

Britain is swinging behind euro, says Brown

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

THE Chancellor claimed yesterday that the tide of opinion in Britain was turning in favour of the single currency.

There was growing support for the Government's stance of backing monetary union in principle, Gordon Brown said as European finance ministers met in York days before the countries expected to be in the single currency first wave are named.

In some of his most supportive remarks about the single currency Mr Brown welcomed the efforts being made by British companies to prepare for it. He told the BBC that "people will be able to look at the economic benefits of it when they see it up and running in other countries and they know it is going to affect us one way or another".

Mr Brown made plain that the single currency was not formally on the agenda for the York gathering, although it will clearly be discussed. It comes just days before a crucial report by the European Monetary Institute on convergence for economic and monetary union (EMU) and a European Commission announcement about which countries are likely to sign up to the currency in the first wave. The final decision will come at a summit beginning on May 1 in Brussels at which those countries signing up to the scheme will decide the level at which their currencies are locked irrevocably into EMU.

With the Chancellor chairing the weekend meeting William Hague told him to use the gathering and the power of Britain's presidency of the EU to stop countries "fudging and fiddling" their way into the single currency. France, Italy and Belgium are among those countries who have been accused of creative accounting to make themselves eligible, but Mr Hague said that no one was prepared to "blow the whistle". In one of his strongest warnings against the dangers of monetary union Mr Hague said in a speech that the Tories opposed joining the single currency in the lifetime of this Parliament and "intended" to oppose abolishing the pound at the next election.

He made clear, however, that his objections to the single currency were based on practicalities rather than principle. "I want to see whether it works before anyone bets Britain's entire economy on joining," he said.

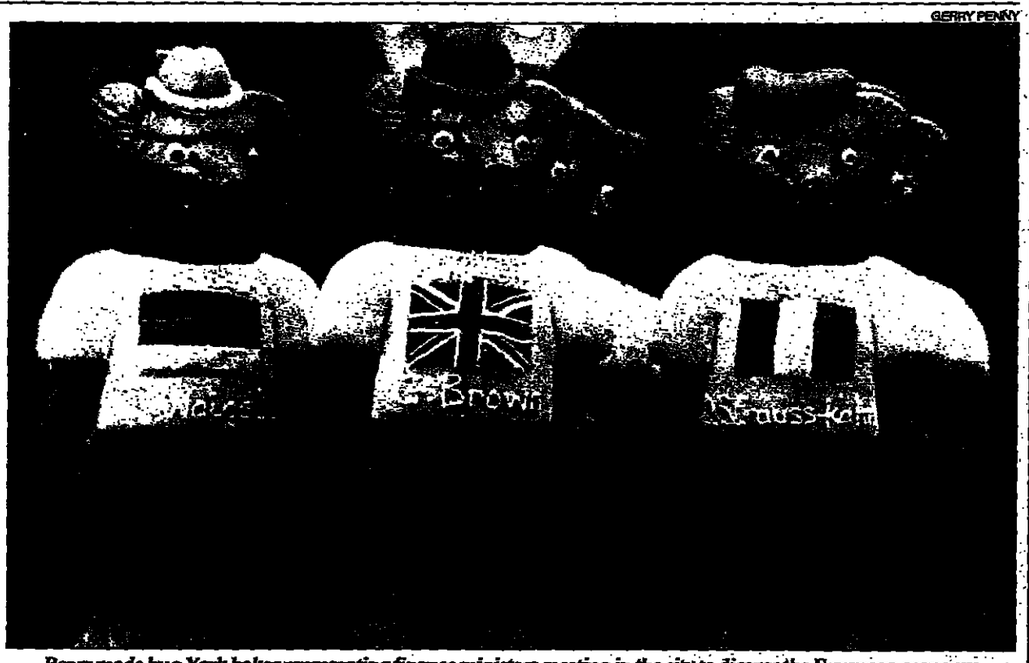
There will be a series of protests in York by the Anti-Maastricht Alliance — the umbrella for about 27 protest organisations who draw support on a cross-party basis. These include a rally, a protest march through the streets of York, debating, the distribution of boxes of Euro Fudge and a performance of Land of Hope and Glory by a professional opera singer.

Around 100 business leaders are about to come out publicly against the European single currency under plans being drawn up by Tory Eurosceptics to defend the pound.

The "Club of 100" will declare their hand at a conference in London in the summer to be addressed by Conservative leader William Hague to counter the impression, fostered by leaders of the Confederation of British Industry, that British companies are strongly in favour of the euro.

They will also be invited to lend their names to a new book highlighting the economic case against the euro to be published at the same time as the conference.

GERRY PENNY



Bears made by a York baker representing finance ministers meeting in the city to discuss the European economy

Kohl and Schroder vie to win Blair's approval

By Nicholas Watt
Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR yesterday flew to Bonn to do his utmost to break the logjam in finding a head for the future European Central Bank and to ensure a smooth start-up to European Monetary Union.

The Prime Minister found himself wooed by Chancellor Kohl and Gerhard Schröder, his Social Democratic challenger, who described Mr Blair as "an unusually nice person". Both German politicians are preparing for a general election in September. But it was concern about EMU that dominated the talks in the Chancellery.

Mr Blair must have relished his encounter with Herr Schröder, the man who has been dubbed "Herr Blair". Before their meeting began, a Labour source in London took great delight in releasing key extracts of Herr Schröder's draft election manifesto which, word for word, matches the language of new Labour.



"Herr Blair" and the original article

On law and order the SPD assures voters that it will be "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime". Mr Blair was Shadow Home Secretary when he coined the phrase.

Herr Schröder has clearly scanned this week's Budget with great care. In language that could have been lifted from any number of Gordon Brown speeches, the manifesto says: "The key is welfare to work with carrots and sticks to help people back to work." The SPD is also to ape Mr Brown by cutting corporation tax and increasing child benefit.

Of the philosophy underpinning the SPD, Herr Schröder's manifesto says: "Our goal is to build a stakeholder society." A senior Labour source said that Herr Schröder need not fear a writ for plagiarism; Mr Blair is said to be flattered that his credo is finding such favour.

Downing Street took the unusual step of releasing a telegram from the British Embassy which reported on the flattering coverage of the Budget in the German press.

Test matches may go to satellite TV

Continued from page 1

being almost blackmailed into doing so if certain key sporting events become exclusively available on these channels."

The group said: "The logical place for complete live coverage of events of long duration must surely be on channels specifically catering for sport. The fact that one has to pay for access should not be any more offensive than the fact that an admission charge would be made for entry to the event itself."

Terry Blake, the marketing director at the England and Wales Cricket Board, welcomed the group's recommendations, but said they did not mean Test matches would disappear from the BBC. Mr Blake said: "It has never been our intention to remove Test matches from terrestrial television. We have always looked for balanced broadcast arrangements — we are simply looking for a competitive market place."

Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, said he would consider the group's recommendation before reaching a decision in the next few weeks.

List A: The "crown jewels"
Olympic Games; FIFA World Cup Finals — final, semi-finals and matches involving the home nations; European Football Championships — final, semi-finals and matches involving home nations; FA Cup Final and Scottish FA Cup Final (in Scotland); Wimbledon finals; The Grand National; The Derby.

List B: Could go to satellite
Test Matches; FIFA World Cup Finals — all matches not on "A" List; European Football Championships — all matches not on A List; FIFA World Cup qualifying matches involving home nations; European Football Championships qualifying matches involving home nations; Five Nations rugby; Rugby World Cup — final, semi-finals and matches involving the home nations;
Cricket World Cup — final, semi-finals and matches involving the home nations;
Wimbledon — all play other than finals weekend.
Commonwealth Games
World Athletics Championship
The Open; The Ryder Cup

Newcastle chairman fails to halt fresh charges

By Paul Wilkinson

THE chairman of Newcastle United failed yesterday in a last-minute legal move to stop the publication tomorrow of fresh allegations against him and another club director.

Lawyers for Freddy Shepherd argued in a High Court hearing that use of recordings made of him and Douglas Hall could not be used by the *News of the World*. The newspaper placed them at the centre of a scandal with a report last weekend over their alleged insulting remarks about fans and their apparent drunken cavorting with call girls. Mr Shepherd's advisers maintained that the video constituted a breach of confidentiality.

Phil Hall, the newspaper's Editor, said it planned to release the videos to television networks today.

Gerrard Tyrell, the solicitor for Mr Hall, who was not party to the court action, said that he understood that the latest instalment could include claims involving drugs. He said: "Douglas Hall categorically denies taking drugs."

Yesterday Mr Hall's lawyers claimed that neither he nor Mr Shepherd would resign but then a public relations firm retained by Mr Shepherd said their client had not sanctioned any statement.

Parliament deal upsets Glasgow

The new Scottish parliament will meet for 18 months in the Church of Scotland's General Assembly Hall in Edinburgh, it was confirmed yesterday (Gillian Harris writes).

The decision, announced by the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, brings to an end what has been described as a "bare knuckle fight" between Edinburgh and Glasgow over which city would house the parliament until its permanent headquarters at Holyrood in Edinburgh are complete in autumn 2001. Glasgow councillors expressed bitter disappointment at the rejection of Strathclyde House, which had been named as the frontrunner.

Mr Dewar said that the decision to choose the assembly hall, made after Edinburgh City Council's offer of extra office space, had been difficult and should not be seen as a "slap in the face" for Glasgow. It was important for the parliament to put down roots in its early years.

Trimble to soothe his party

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, will today seek to reassure his party as the Stormont peace talks enter their final straight (Martin Fletcher writes). A fracas at a rally on Thursday night showed how fractured Unionism now is.

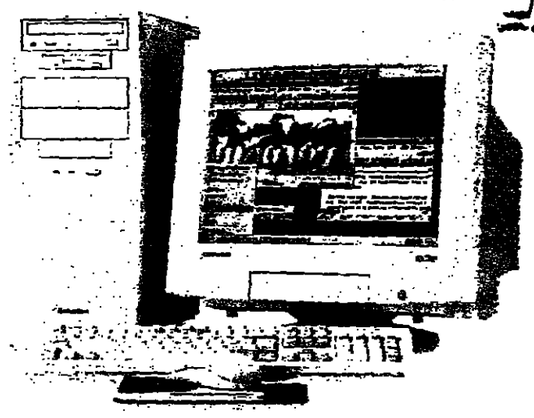
The rally in Lisburn, Co Antrim, was organised by the Democratic Unionist Party to denounce the talks as a sell-out. When members of the Progressive Unionist and Ulster Democratic parties demanded to speak, tempers flared and punches were thrown. Police ejected about 20 protesters including Gary McMichael, the UDP leader.

Half the UUP's ten MPs have expressed grave doubts over the talks; one is threatening to leave the party. At today's meeting of the Ulster Unionist Council, Mr Trimble faces a tough task.

☐ Army experts defused a bomb thrown into a Londonderry bank yesterday by the Continuity IRA, a group opposed to the peace process.

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Murder creates panic in paradise

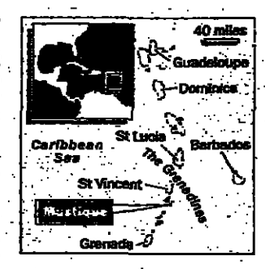
The brutal death of a wealthy socialite has shattered the calm of Mustique, home to rock stars, models and royalty. **Ben Macintyre** investigates the end of a dream

MURDERS are simply not meant to happen on Mustique, arguably the most exclusive holiday spot on earth, a Caribbean island custom-designed to provide privacy and security for the rich and renowned.

The sands are golden, the waters inviting and the temperature seldom drops below 33C. The parties are legendary, for neighbours are few, discreet and stupendously wealthy, on an island favoured by David Bowie and his wife, the model Iman, Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall, the publisher Felix Denis and Princess Margaret.

Last month, the island's tranquility was ruffled when the Princess was flown back to Britain after suffering a slight stroke at her holiday home. It was, residents agreed, the most unpleasant event on Mustique in living memory. Until three days later, that is, when the body of Susie Mostberger, a wealthy French socialite from Strasbourg and a visitor for more than two decades, was found in her beautiful rented seafront property, Fort Shandy.

She had been repeatedly stabbed and her throat cut. Three weeks later police still have not found her killer, nor a motive. "Panic in Paradise" shouted the French headlines, as a meeting of Mustique's 72 co-proprietors was called to discuss offering a reward for the capture of the killer. Some owners are already contemplating selling up, and *Paris-Match* claimed Mick Jagger, "fearing that his children might be victims of a kidnapping", was thinking of leaving.



Immediate flight was not an option for the few hundred people now in residence, however, because police refused to give permission for anyone to leave, according to *Marianne* magazine, which described the murder as "the most chic crime of the year". Sir James Mitchell, the Prime Minister of the Grenadines, declared: "This is a catastrophe for everyone".

Scotland Yard officers have been helping French detectives and local police investigators with their inquiries. The theory that the 56-year-old Frenchwoman might have been killed during a burglary has been discounted because nothing was missing and valuable jewellery was untouched. Unmarried and childless, Mme Mostberger spent most of her winters in Mustique, renting villas at an average of £5,000 a week. "She was very rich, but very generous, very happy, very funny," one friend said.

On February 26 Mme Mostberger went to a party attended by Sir James and other notables, and returned home by golf cart at around 1am. Her body was found by a maid the next morning in the master bedroom of the mansion overlooking Britannia Bay. Police immediately began investigating Mme Mostberger's relationship with a 27-year-old Yugoslav, so far identified only as Vladimir. Vladimir, a deserter from the Yugoslav Army, reportedly met Mme Mostberger while working in an expensive Strasbourg clothes boutique, some time after the death in 1993 of her long-time lover, Henry Dreyfus, a rich industrialist.

The oddly matched couple turned heads in Basil's Bar, the island's lone watering hole. "He was nothing but a gigolo," one resident observed.

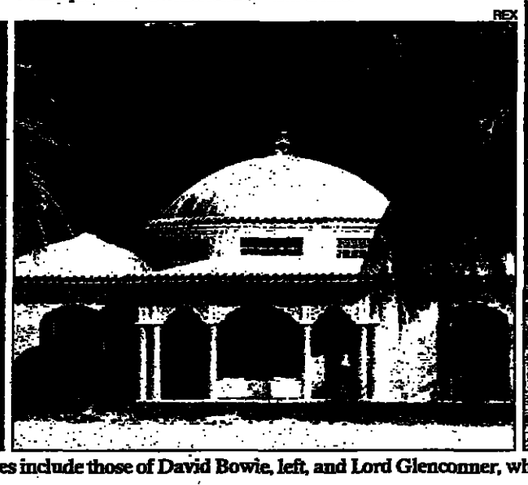
This week *Paris-Match* reported that the young Yugoslav had begun demanding money from her, and some of Mme Mostberger's associates have suggested that she wanted to end their relationship. Ten days before her death, Vladimir left Mustique for Switzerland, where he had been studying hotel management.

Police are also investigating the possibility that Mme Mostberger's death was linked to the Caribbean drugs trade. They are also said to be intrigued by the source of Mme Mostberger's money. She was independently wealthy, thanks to the family dental and pharmaceutical business, but she did not inherit the Dreyfus fortune. Yet she dined only in the most expensive restaurants, and made regular trips to Marbella and Morocco.

Another line of inquiry involves four French people who moored their yacht in Britannia Bay shortly before the murder. Mme Mostberger told a friend that she had invited the crew to dinner a few days earlier, but had "felt uneasy" about them.

The slow-moving inquiry has led to suspicions that police may be dragging their heels to avoid adverse publicity. If so, that effort may be too late, for when Mustique was bought by the Scottish millionaire Lord Glenconner in 1959 and divided into 72 properties, it was precisely to create a world untouched by such sordid realities as violent crime.





REX



Mick Jagger is one of many said to be considering quitting the island. Celebrity homes include those of David Bowie, left, and Lord Glenconner, who bought Mustique in 1959. Mme Mostberger, right, was found with her throat cut

How DiCaprio's army of fans missed rare window of opportunity

Film star casts his mask aside to bathe in publicity, writes **Damian Whitworth**

THERE was a classic film-star moment during Leonardo DiCaprio's trip to London this week.

From his penthouse hotel suite overlooking Hyde Park he looked down on fans screaming his name and peering up for a glimpse of his pretty pout. The bathroom in the Metropolitan hotel on Park Lane has floor-to-ceiling plate-glass windows which are opaque to those on the outside. This is just as well.

The sight of DiCaprio standing there naked before stepping into the bath would surely have sparked the greatest civil unrest since the poll-tax riots. After splashing merrily in his tub while surveying the world he has conquered, the 23-year-old with the angelic features declared the experience to have been "awesome".

If he needed any convincing, the boy from the wrong side of the Los Angeles tracks now knows just how high he sits in the pantheon of screen idols. Last night he was understood to be on his way back to the United States, unable to attend the Dublin premiere of *The Man In The Iron Mask* after all because of meetings about future projects.

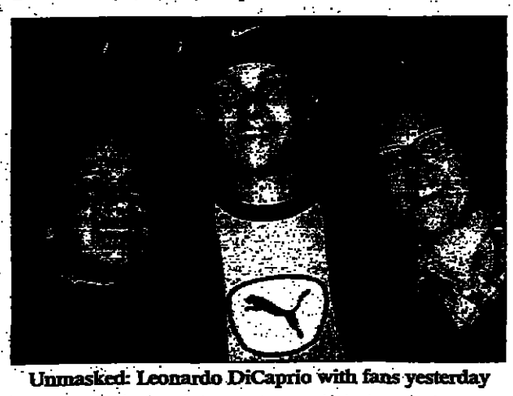
That is hardly surprising. His starring role as Louis XIV helped push the film to number two in the American charts behind *Titanic*, in which he also stars, which is the highest grossing movie of all time.

DiCaprio's popularity is not restricted to pubescent girls. Although they were the ones being hauled breathless from the crush in Leicester Square, his appeal runs deeper. At the premiere party in Paris he was flattered by the attentions of Naomi Campbell and Eva Herzigova. The fact that he took his mother, who is also his manager, shopping in Knightsbridge appeared to endear him to older female commentators who claimed him as a responsible type and an ideal role model.

Meanwhile those who have worked with him say that his feet are still firmly on the ground. Jeremy Irons, who also appears in *The Man In The Iron Mask*, said: "He knows that this has just happened to him at this stage in his career, and it's nothing to do with him, but he's a great actor and will have a great career."

DiCaprio is serious about his career. He turned down the part of Robin in *Batman and Robin* because he thought it was not serious enough and similarly rejected a James Dean film because he said he lacked experience.

It was claimed that Gerard Depardieu, another *Iron Mask* co-star, was a little put out by the attention DiCaprio received in Paris and called him an "upstart". The two got on well during filming so this may have been a mis-translation. But with DiCaprio being compared to Valentino and *Cary Grant, and reputedly* worth $20 million a film, he is *now somewhat beyond the upstart stage.*



Unmasked: Leonardo DiCaprio with fans yesterday

Surgeon guilty over death of girl, 6

BY RICHARD DUCE

THE unblemished 30-year career of a leading heart specialist was in tatters last night after he was suspended for six months following a fatal operation on a child without her parents' consent.

James Taylor, 61, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct by the General Medical Council following the operation on Debbie Jenkins, six, who died the next day at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children.

The doctor, who was involved in pioneering heart procedures on children in the 1960s, now faces High Court legal action from Ross and Carolyn Jenkins over the death of their only daughter in July 1995. Their solicitor, Graeme Peart, confirmed that the couple, of Sprowston, near Norwich, would be pursuing a negligence claim against Dr Taylor and the hospital.

At the end of the four-day hearing in central London, the GMC ruled that Dr Taylor could not justify pressing ahead with the operation when he knew that Mrs Jenkins had not consented. Dr Taylor, a consultant paediatric cardiologist, who denied the charge, argued that he had been acting in the best interests of the child.

Debbie, who was born with a heart defect, had been admitted for an investigative procedure. Dr Taylor had discussed using a balloon catheter to expand a narrow artery, but Mrs Jenkins had dismissed it as too risky. He pressed ahead and the operation "went horribly wrong".

Salesman became too nice for job

BY ROBIN YOUNG

AN INSURANCE salesman who became "too nice" for his job after suffering head injuries in a car crash won more than £320,000 damages in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Charles Cornell's family thought he had a more pleasant personality after he was brain-damaged in the accident, but he lost the aggressive edge needed to be a top salesman, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith said. Together with Lords Justices Morritt and Robert Walker, he more than doubled an award made by Judge Tibber in the High Court in June 1996.

The original award of £156,000 would have left Mr Cornell with nothing because he had already turned down a settlement offer of £175,000. With the old award he would have to pay all the legal costs of the case, but now he keeps the new award and has his costs paid.

Mr Cornell, 31, of Penshurst, Kent, was a passenger in a car driven by his friend and partner Robert Green on the M11 near Theydon, Essex, in September 1991. Mr Green fell asleep at the wheel, and the car went down an embankment, crashed through a fence and overturned.

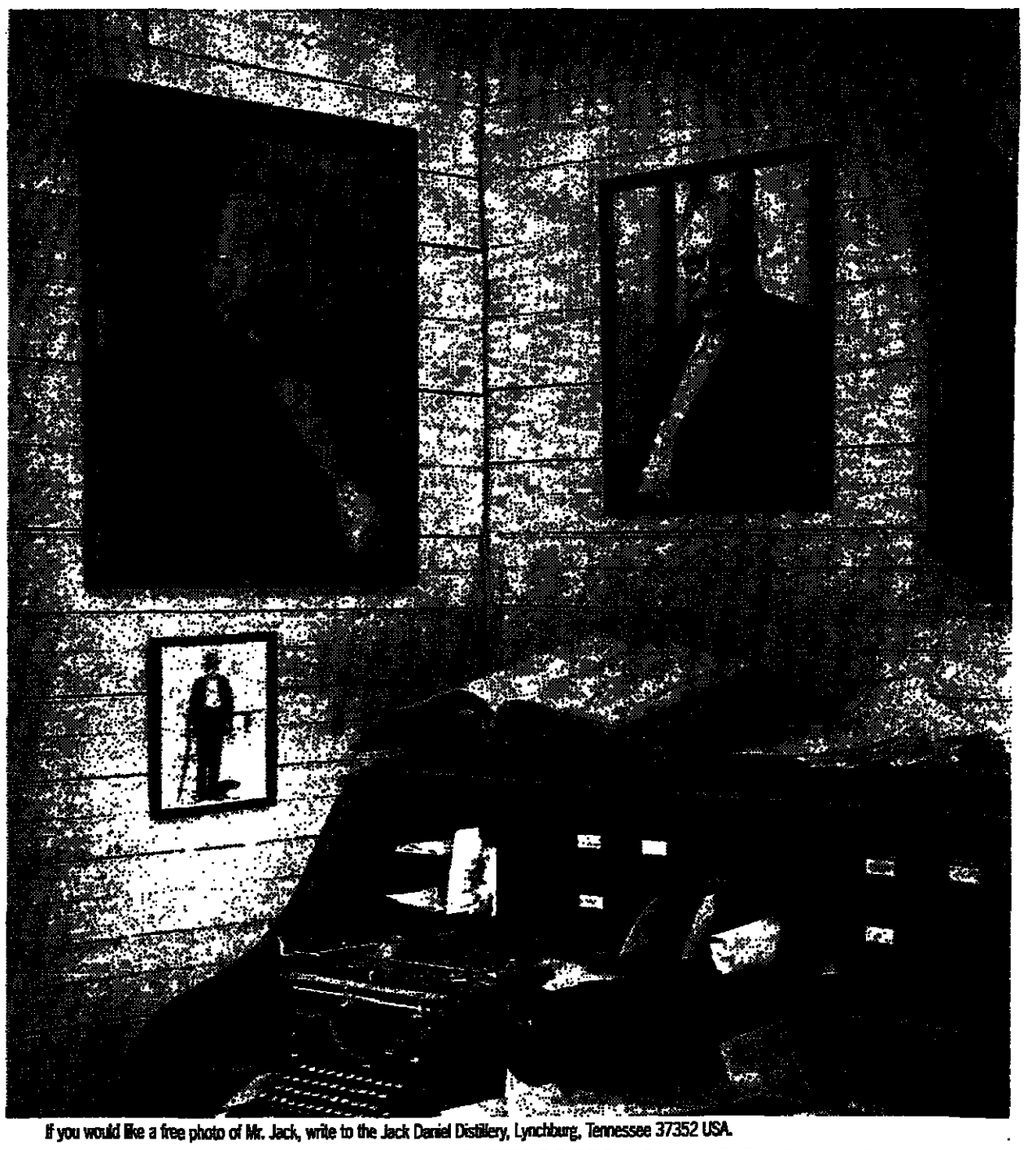
Before the crash Mr Cornell was "a talented and aggressive salesman" and was considered a star, but the court was told that now he was "bumping along at the bottom of the market".

A consultant psychologist had described Mr Cornell's memory and intellect as blunted since the accident, and described him as being "rather disinhibited and euphoric with a tendency to crumble under stress," concluding that he was "unemployable in any reputable sales force".

As well as the head injury, Mr Cornell suffered severe injuries to his left arm and had lost his sense of taste and smell.

While the judges reduced his £87,500 damages for pain and suffering to £60,000, they increased his award for future loss of earnings from £30,000 to £220,000. He also received £20,000 for past loss of earnings, and about £20,000 in interest.

The damages are to be paid by insurers for Mr Green, of Earls Court, West London, who was convicted of driving without due care and attention and admitted liability for the crash. The insurers had contested the size of the award.



If you would like a free photo of Mr. Jack, write to the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee 37352 USA.

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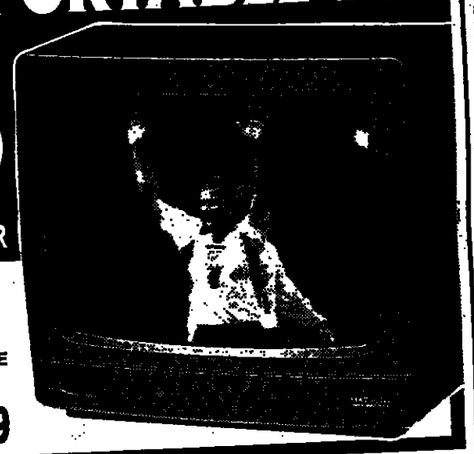
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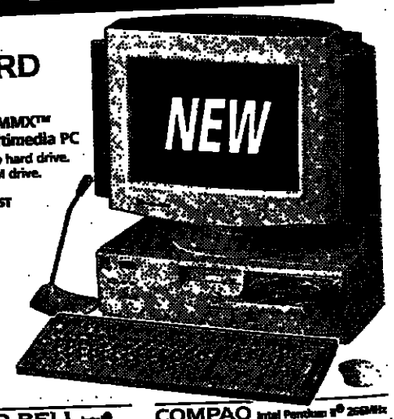


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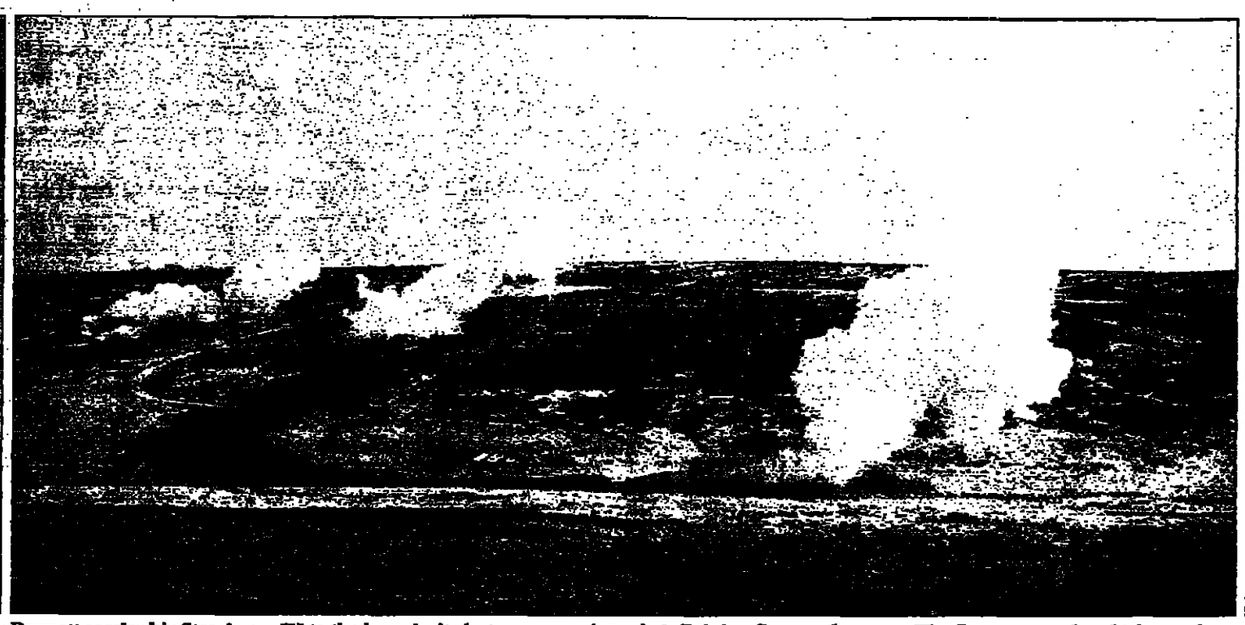
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Er, Dartmoor, we have a problem...







What goes up: hopes are high as Steven Bennett carries his Starchaser III to the launch site but, moments later, he's fighting fires on the moor. The flames spread and triggered ammunition lying on the army firing range

Simon de Bruxelles watches as Briton's £70,000 space hopes go up, and then down, in smoke

A SELF-TAUGHT inventor's dreams of joining the space race came sharply down to Earth yesterday when his £70,000 hand-built rocket crashed, setting fire to several hundred acres of Dartmoor.

Steven Bennett had hoped Starchaser III would soar to 15,000ft and return to Earth by parachute five minutes later. Instead, two years' work ended in a spectacular fireworks show slightly less than five seconds after lift-off.

The rocket rose 50 metres into the air. For a second it flew horizontally and then the three stages separated in clouds of white smoke before the final stage veered sharply to the left and ploughed into a hillside in a shower of sparks 300 metres away. Within seconds, flames were spreading across through the heather as Mr Bennett and his team tried in vain to beat out them out with old sacks. The fire swept across the hillside and loud bangs could be heard as unexploded ammunition on the Army's Dartmoor firing range was set off by the heat. Chunks of solid green fuel flared brightly amid the dark knee-high heather. The largest surviving piece was the tail-fin, signed in silver marker by Mr Bennett and members of his team. The danger from exploding bullets last night forced firefighters to abandon attempts to put out the blaze, which was left to burn itself out.

Starchaser 3 was the largest and most expensive rocket built by Mr Bennett, who began working on space projects in his garden shed at the age of 13. It had been developed and built at the University of Salford, where he runs a course in space technology.

Mr Bennett, 33, had acquired significant sponsorship for the test flight after the successful launch two years ago of its predecessor, which had been built in his lounge and powered by fuel made from sugar. Starchaser 3 was in a different league, 22ft high and using the same rocket fuel as the Space Shuttle, which had been imported under licence. Mr Bennett had hoped that its success would attract enough interest to allow him to develop it as a cheap and reliable satellite launch system.

After the crash, he said that four of the seven rocket motors had failed to fire, sending the rocket into terminal tilt. "There were about 600 parts in there, all with the potential to go wrong, and several of them did. "I guaranteed to show you big fireworks and that's what you got. Unfortunately it means two years' hard work has just gone up in smoke."

Although Mr Bennett says that he is determined to try again he admitted that rasing the money to build the next rocket would not be easy after such a spectacular public failure. The launch was watched by his son Max aged seven and wife Adrienne. "There are no words to describe how I feel," she said. Mr Bennett, who had worked 18 hours a day to get the rocket ready on time, said: "I'm exhausted. Everyone has worked so hard on this. We may have been over-ambitious. Rockets are very complex."

Cot death claim made my blood run cold, says Anne Diamond

Broadcaster who lost baby calls for more research into risks posed by long flights, writes **Carol Midgley**



Diamond: her son died two days after flight

THE broadcaster Anne Diamond said yesterday that her blood ran cold when she heard about research showing that long-haul flights could put babies at risk of cot death. Her son Sebastian was found dead in his cot two days after flying back from a family holiday in Cyprus.

Yesterday she called for Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, to start an immediate further investigation to spare parents from having to agonise over whether to take their babies on holiday flights this summer.

She said they should not have to play "piggy in the middle" between scientists, support groups and the Government, and airlines should be prepared to fund research. Sebastian, who was four months, had just spent a week's holiday with his parents and brothers Oliver, then 3, and Jamie, 2, in July 1991.

Ms Diamond said he had not seemed particularly distressed on the flight and she had had no cause to think twice about it. "It was only a three-hour flight and there were no signs of him being breathless but you can't help wondering 'Was that it? Was it relevant?'

"I'm sure I would have noticed if something was wrong but, with a vulnerable baby, how do you know?" she said. Immediately after she heard the news yesterday, Ms Diamond phoned her husband, the television producer Mike Hollingsworth. "I was asking him, 'Is Cyprus high in altitude?' I don't know. It just makes you question everything. And the theory does seem quite logical.

"We went on long-haul flights to Australia with two babies under one year old before Sebastian was born, which scares me now when I think about it. I would never do it now, not until we know the facts. Someone told me 75,000 British babies are taken on flights every year."

Sebastian, who had been born prematurely and spent the first few weeks of life in an incubator, died on the day Oliver was to have had a party to celebrate his fourth birthday. When he had failed to wake by 7am, his mother went to his bedroom to check on him.

"He was peacefully lying in his usual position, on his tummy, with his head pressed against the bars and his arm dangling out. But something made me want to check. I went over and touched him. He was stone cold, as stiff as a statue and I knew straight away he was dead," she has said.

Ms Diamond, who has since had two more sons, Jake and Conor, added: "I don't think the average person realises the oxygen level on an aircraft is lower than normal. It makes sense to think that, if a baby is vulnerable, it could do some damage. People pooh-poohed the idea of babies sleeping on their tummies as a contributory factor at first. It happened to me and it is crucial to know."

Doctors insist flying is safe

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

PAEDIATRICIANS are convinced that flying is not hazardous for babies, despite a report showing that a small number can suffer ill effects if they breathe air with low oxygen levels, such as that in aircraft or in mountain resorts, for prolonged periods.

Tests by Professor David Southall, from North Staffordshire Hospital Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, found that four out of 34 babies who had breathed rarefied air suffered from hypoxia, a condition where reduced oxygen levels in the blood cause heart and breathing problems. Babies with respiratory problems seemed to be more likely to suffer from the condition.

If hypoxia is prolonged, damage can be done to tissues and it can be fatal if oxygen levels are not restored quickly. All four babies who suffered from it during the tests recovered on being removed from the rarified atmosphere, although one did require supplementary oxygen. Writing in the *British Medical Journal* yesterday Dr Southall said that further research into the effects of airline flights or holidays at high altitude on infants was urgently needed.

Commenting on the study, Anthony Milner, professor of neonatology at St Thomas's Hospital, London, said: "The epidemiological evidence indicates that, whatever the effect of relative hypoxia on breathing patterns, flying appears to be safe for healthy children in the first year of life."

The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths urged parents not to panic. The discovery that some babies reacted more dramatically than others to a drop in oxygen levels deserved further research, the foundation added.

Air flow to be improved

AIRLINES have denied endangering passengers by reducing the flow of fresh air in the cabins to save money.

Guidelines state that the fresh air circulating in aircraft cabins must be changed every ten minutes. The Civil Aviation Authority disclosed last night that tighter standards are to be introduced. A spokesman said: "It is safe now, but the change is designed to make it more comfortable."

David Learmont, operations and safety editor of *Flight International* magazine, said: "At normal cruising height, you are doing the equivalent of sitting on a mountain top at 8,000ft. Obviously, if you have respiratory problems, such as asthma, you should ask medical advice before flying.

"An airline could blow a gale through the cabin, which would make you feel very cold but would be like gulping in Alpine air, and would burn fuel. Airlines do reduce the air flow at nights, but not to the point where it could endanger health or comfort."

The Civil Aviation Authority said: "The requirement is for there to be no more than 30,000 parts of carbon dioxide per million parts of air. This is being reduced to 5,000 parts of CO_2 later this year."

British Airways said: "We fly more than 250,000 babies under two years old, and we have never had any cases of sudden infant death in flight or of any later deaths or problems related to flying."

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THE ACADEMY AWARDS 1998

PETER NICHOLLS



Workers at The Shrine apply the finishing touches in preparation for the Oscars ceremony on Monday night

LA puts on party fit for a Princess

A necklace will be the biggest star at the first Diana fundraiser in America, Giles Whittell writes

A HEART-SHAPED sapphire the size of a golf ball and familiar to viewers of *Titanic* will be the showpiece of a lavish Beverly Hills charity auction tonight, America's first official fundraising event in aid of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

Before the auction Paul Burrell, the Princess's butler, will speak in public for the first time about the woman he served for nine years and about his new role at the fund, which could earn millions from the sold-out evening for which tickets cost from $500 (£310) to $50,000.

Coming two nights before the Oscars, the Princess Ball at the grandiose Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel is expected to unite nervous nominees, wealthy philanthropists and much of British Hollywood. Helena Bonham Carter and Julianne Moore (of *Boogie Nights*) have confirmed they will attend along with Rod Stewart, Joan Collins, Jane Seymour and Gary Oldman.

Most eyes will be on Gloria Stuart. At the end of *Titanic*, the 87-year-old actress throws an apparently priceless necklace into the Atlantic over the liner's watery grave. A necklace modelled on the film's fictional *Coeur de la Mer* has been made for the auction by Asprey's in London. Set in platinum and surrounded by 103 diamonds, the 170-carat sapphire necklace has been valued at $3.5 million.

It arrived in Los Angeles this week after being flown from London to New York by Concorde at the second attempt; the first supersonic flight was aborted soon after takeoff because of a technical hitch, forcing the aircraft to return to Heathrow.

The ball's 600 guests will mingle and dance to the strains of a full swing orchestra in honour of the Princess and her causes, days after a clear signal from Sir Elton John that he felt the time for tributes was past.

"I'm not sure of all the ideas about perpetrating the thing," the singer said on GMTV. "I'm not going to be bouncing on stage and doing any concerts in memory of Princess Diana."

Nonetheless, the fund could hardly hope for a more auspicious American debut. With a global shop window in the form of history's top-grossing film, the *Coeur de la Mer* necklace is expected to fetch well over its estimated retail price.

Sotheby's will be fielding live telephone bids through its Beverly Hills office, while bids phoned to the Asprey's office in New York will be patched through to the ballroom.

Other lots being sold in aid of the fund and a Los Angeles Aids charity include an inscribed enamel box given by the Princess to Mr Burrell, several pieces from the roll of silk used to make her wedding dress, and two no-holds-barred shopping trips.

"It will be a modern ball for a modern Princess," Alfred Duncan, one of the event's organisers, said. "We hope it will be a unique, wonderful evening to honour the memory of a truly special person."

Weekend, page 1
Metro, page 24

Best picture: *As Good As It Gets, The Full Monty, Good Will Hunting, L.A. Confidential, Titanic.* The 1953 version of the Atlantic disaster won an Oscar for Best Story and Screenplay.

Best actor: Matt Damon, Robert Duvall, Peter Fonda, Dustin Hoffman, Jack Nicholson. This is Nicholson's record eleventh nomination; he has won twice, for *Terms of Endearment* (1983) and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975).

Best actress: Helena Bonham Carter, Julie Christie, Judi Dench, Helen Hunt, Kate Winslet. Dame Judi, playing Victoria in *Mrs Brown*, would be only the second Oscar-winning queen. The first was Katharine Hepburn, in *The Lion in Winter* (1968).

Best supporting actor: Robert Forster, Anthony Hopkins, Greg Kinnear, Burt Reynolds, Robin Williams. If Hopkins wins, in the role of John Quincy Adams in *Amistad*, it would be the first Oscar for playing a US President.

Best supporting actress: Kim Basinger, Joan Cusack, Minnie Driver, Julianne Moore, Gloria Stuart. Winslet and Stuart are the first duo nominated for playing the same character in the same film.

Best director: Peter Cattaneo, Gus Van Sant, Curtis Hanson, Atom Egoyan, James Cameron. Cattaneo's *The Full Monty* is his first feature.

Best Cinematography: *Amistad, Kundun, L.A. Confidential, Titanic, The Wings of the Dove.* Janusz Kaminski, who shot *Amistad*, is the only previous winner, for *Schindler's List* (1993).

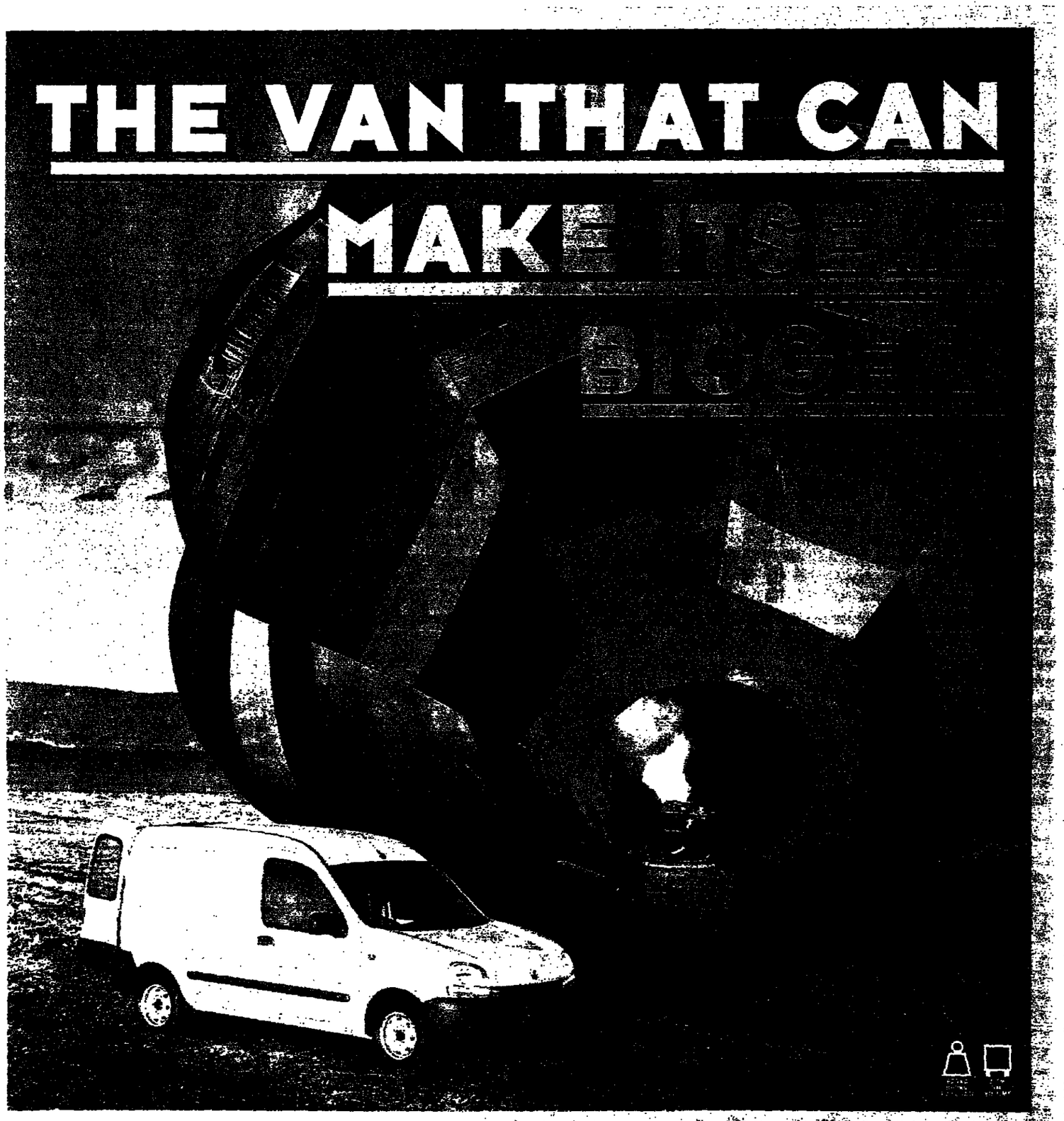
Best original screenplay: *As Good As It Gets, Boogie Nights, Deconstructing Harry, The Full Monty, Good Will Hunting.* Woody Allen gets a record thirteenth writing nomination for *Deconstructing Harry*. His Oscar-winning screenplays were *Hannah and her Sisters* (1986) and *Annie Hall* (1977).

Best screenplay adaptation: *Donnie Brasco, L.A. Confidential, The Sweet Hereafter, Wag The Dog, The Wings of the Dove.* Adaptations of Henry James novels have never before won for their writing. Only *The Heiress* took an Oscar (1949).

Best original song: *Go The Distance (Hercules), How Do I Live (Con Air), Journey to the Past (Anastasia), Miss Misery (Good Will Hunting), My Heart Will Go On (Titanic).* Alan Menken, who wrote *Go The Distance* for Michael Bolton, has won Oscars for *Colors of the Wind (Pocahontas, 1995), A Whole New World (Aladdin, 1992), Beauty and the Beast (Beauty and the Beast, 1991), Under the Sea (The Little Mermaid, 1989).*

Best foreign language film: *Beyond Silence* (Germany), *Character* (The Netherlands), *Four Days in September* (Brazil), *Secrets of the Heart* (Spain), *The Thief* (Russia). Miramax, which distributes *Four Days in September*, backed the two biggest-grossing foreign language films of the decade, *Cinema Paradiso* and *Kolya*.

DOMINIC KENNEDY



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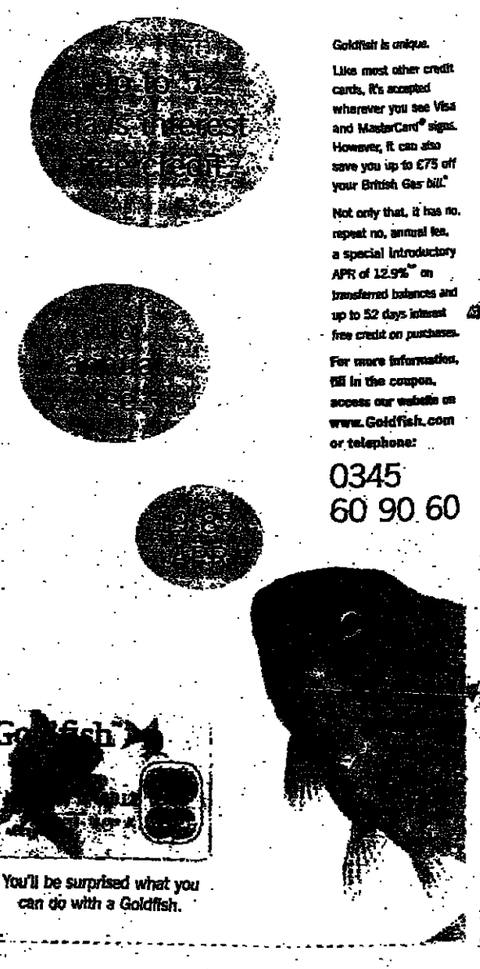
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THE ACADEMY AWARDS 1998



Julie Christie

Film: Afterglow
Director: Alan Rudolph
Films with Julie Christie 1992-1998: $52,991,858

ACTRESS AGENCY	ACTRESS AGE	ACTRESS NATIONALITY	TYPE OF ROLE	RELEASE DATE	U.S. BOX OFFICE
ICM	56	British	Dramatic	12/25/97	$1.9 mil

PRIOR TRACK RECORD: 2 noms 1 win
Best Actress "Darling," (1965)
Best Actress "McCabe & Mrs. Miller," (1971)

UPSIDE: DOWNSIDE:
PRE-AWARD WINS: National Society of Film Critics, New York Film Critics' Circle
SUBJECTIVE FACTOR: Yesterday's "*Darling*" basis in today's "*Afterglow*."
VEGAS/LONDON ODDS: Even / 10-1



Judi Dench

Film: Mrs. Brown
Director: John Madden
Films with Judi Dench 1992-1998: $275,478,377

ACTRESS AGENCY	ACTRESS AGE	ACTRESS NATIONALITY	TYPE OF ROLE	RELEASE DATE	U.S. BOX OFFICE
WMA	63	British	Dramatic	7/18/97	$8.7 mil

PRIOR TRACK RECORD: 0 noms 0 wins

UPSIDE: DOWNSIDE: None
PRE-AWARD WINS: Golden Globe (Drama)
SUBJECTIVE FACTOR: A royal performance.
VEGAS/LONDON ODDS: 3-1 / 7-4



Helen Hunt

Film: As Good As It Gets
Director: James L. Brooks
Films with Helen Hunt 1992-1998: $467,888,291

ACTRESS AGENCY	ACTRESS AGE	ACTRESS NATIONALITY	TYPE OF ROLE	RELEASE DATE	U.S. BOX OFFICE
CAA	34	American	Comedic	12/23/97	$101.5 mil

PRIOR TRACK RECORD: 0 noms 0 wins

UPSIDE: DOWNSIDE: None
PRE-AWARD WINS: Golden Globe (Musical or Comedy)
SUBJECTIVE FACTOR: Oscar is mad about Helen.
VEGAS/LONDON ODDS: 8-1 / 8-1



Kate Winslet

Film: Titanic
Director: James Cameron
Films with Kate Winslet 1992-1998: $441,821,535

ACTRESS AGENCY	ACTRESS AGE	ACTRESS NATIONALITY	TYPE OF ROLE	RELEASE DATE	U.S. BOX OFFICE
WMA	22	British	Dramatic	12/19/97	$376.3 mil

PRIOR TRACK RECORD: 1 nom 0 wins
Best Supporting Actress "Sense and Sensibility," (1995)

UPSIDE: DOWNSIDE: None
PRE-AWARD WINS: None
SUBJECTIVE FACTOR: A first-class performance.
VEGAS/LONDON ODDS: 5-1 / 14-1



Helena Bonham Carter

Film: The Wings of the Dove
Director: Iain Softley
Films with Helena 1992-1998: $188,988,291

ACTRESS AGENCY	ACTRESS AGE	ACTRESS NATIONALITY	TYPE OF ROLE	RELEASE DATE	U.S. BOX OFFICE
UTA	31	British	Dramatic	11/7/97	$10.6 mil

PRIOR TRACK RECORD: 0 noms 0 wins

UPSIDE: DOWNSIDE: None
PRE-AWARD WINS: Los Angeles Film Critics Assn., National Board of Review
SUBJECTIVE FACTOR: She won't send Oscar to any other nominee.
VEGAS/LONDON ODDS: Even / 4-6

Form guide: details from the computer rankings in the annual *Academy Award Handicap*

Computer sees raw deal for The Full Monty

The movie is too original to win an Oscar, writes **Dominic Kennedy**

A HOLLYWOOD computer which uses trivia and lucky omens to predict who will win the Oscars is backing Britain's Helena Bonham Carter for the best actress trophy.

The same machine forecasts that *The Full Monty*, the low-budget comedy about redundant Sheffield steelworkers who become strippers, will be beaten as best picture by *Titanic*, at $200 million (£125 million) the world's most expensive movie.

The computer's predictions have nothing to do with artistic merit. Ms Bonham Carter, 31, was praised by critics for her "sensitive and sturdy" performance in the Venetian bodice-ripper *The Wings of the Dove*, an adaptation of the Henry James novel with added nudity.

But the first-time nominee will win the Oscar, the computer predicts, for two reasons.

The first is that, like 14 of the best actresses in the past 15 years, she comes to the ceremony already garlanded with awards for her role, six in total, given by film critics from Los Angeles to Boston.

Second, and more incongruously, the computer says she is likely to win because her film was first seen in the winter months. Ten out of the past 15 best actresses starred in films released later than September.

Julie Christie, nominated for *Afterglow*, is deemed to have a slim chance because her trophy case is full (*McCabe and Mrs Miller* 1971, *Darling* 1965). Best actresses seldom win twice, never mind three times. *The Full Monty* has no hope of winning the Oscar for best picture. Almost everything is against it judging by previous form, says the computer.

The Anglo-American film has taken $39 million at the box office (compared with $376 million for *Titanic*) and the lowest-grossing nominee never wins. Best pictures inevitably have actors nominated for Oscars but *The Full Monty* has none.

Its rival, the romantic comedy *As Good As It Gets*, has Helen Hunt, Jack Nicholson and Greg Kinnear nominated for acting awards. The best picture usually wins the Golden Globe, which this year went to *Titanic*.

Finally, *The Full Monty* is too original, with a screenplay by the newcomer Simon Beaufoy. Best pictures tend to be adaptations of novels, such as *The English Patient* last year and *Schindler's List* in 1993.

The one omen in favour of *The Full Monty* is its location. Films set in the United Kingdom have been best picture ten times, from *Cavalcade* in the 1930s, via *My Fair Lady* in 1964 to *Braveheart* in 1995. The luckiest location belongs to *As Good As It Gets*. New York films have won 14 best-picture Oscars, starting with *The Broadway Melody* in the 1920s, although the city has gone out of fashion in recent years, not winning since *Kramer versus Kramer* in 1979.

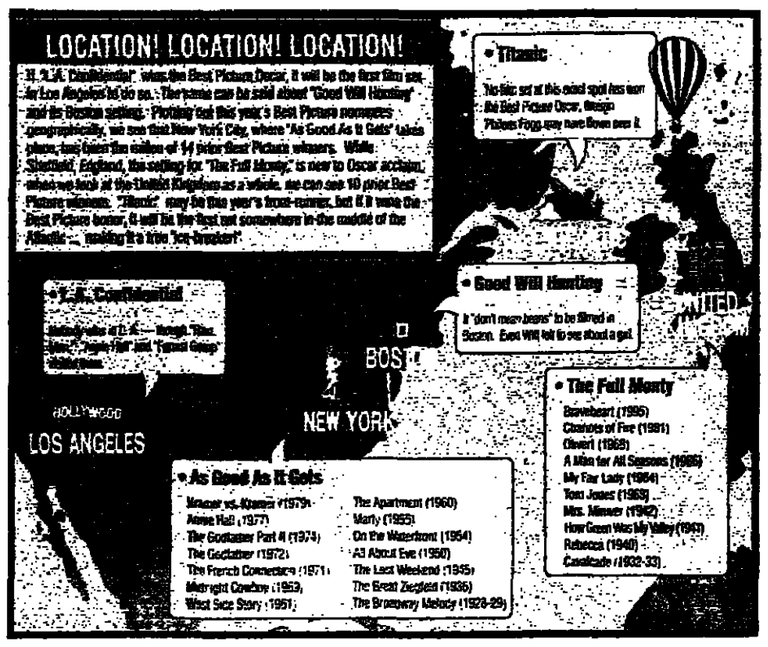
The computer's prediction for best picture is set where no Oscar winner has been located before, the bottom of the Atlantic.

Films about boats have a poor record in the Oscars, often winning many nominations only to lose all on the night. That happened to *Das Boot* in 1981, *Mutiny on the Bounty* in 1962, *The Caine Mutiny* in 1954 and *The Long Voyage Home* in 1940.

The Poseidon Adventure had a promising eight nominations in 1972 but won only for best original song, called *The Morning After*. The most successful maritime film was *Jaws*, which won three Oscars.

Titanic has many other omens in its favour, though. It won the most nominations (a record 14, the same as *All About Eve* in 1950); won the Directors' Guild of America award; is a historical epic; and has a PG-13 rating in the United States. Most winners in recent years have shared these features.

The computer has been programmed by Entertainment Data, which produces daily box office statistics for American and European cinema audiences.



Ex sit-com actress 'a great discovery'

THE Oscar winner for best actress will be Helen Hunt, according to two American entertainment publications bold enough to offer predictions (Giles Whittell writes).

Best known until this year for her work in American sitcoms and a thinly written role as a tornado-chaser in *Twister*, Ms Hunt was "the only Yank at the tea party" and "a great discovery in *As Good As It Gets*", according to *Entertainment Weekly*.

For her role as a waitress who falls for an eccentric bigot played by Jack Nicholson, the magazine made her the 2-1 favourite, giving odds of 3-1 for Judi Dench as Queen Victoria in *Mrs Brown*, 4-1 for Kate Winslet in *Titanic*, 6-1 for Julie Christie in *Afterglow* and 7-1 for Helena Bonham Carter in *The Wings of the Dove*.

Betting on the Oscars is illegal in American casinos, but informal odds-making is an annual rite in the Hollywood press. *Mr Showbiz*, an online service, has joined *Entertainment Weekly* in predicting a win for Ms Hunt, while both foresee close races between Mr Nicholson and Robert Duvall (*The Apostle*) for best actor. Burt Reynolds and Robin Williams are considered front-runners for best supporting actor, and Kim Basinger and Gloria Stuart for best supporting actress.

BBC screening ceremony live

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

FOR only the fourth year, British television viewers can watch the Oscar awards ceremony as it happens.

The 70th Annual Academy Awards is on BBC2 from 2am to 6.10am on Tuesday, featuring American television's live coverage, along with Barry Norman's snatched interviews with the stars in Los Angeles. To set the scene, CNN has a special *Showbiz Today* from 10.30pm to 11pm on Monday. Sky News and BBC News 24 have updates through the night. At 7am *The Big Breakfast* on Channel 4 has Melanie Sykes at post-Oscar parties.

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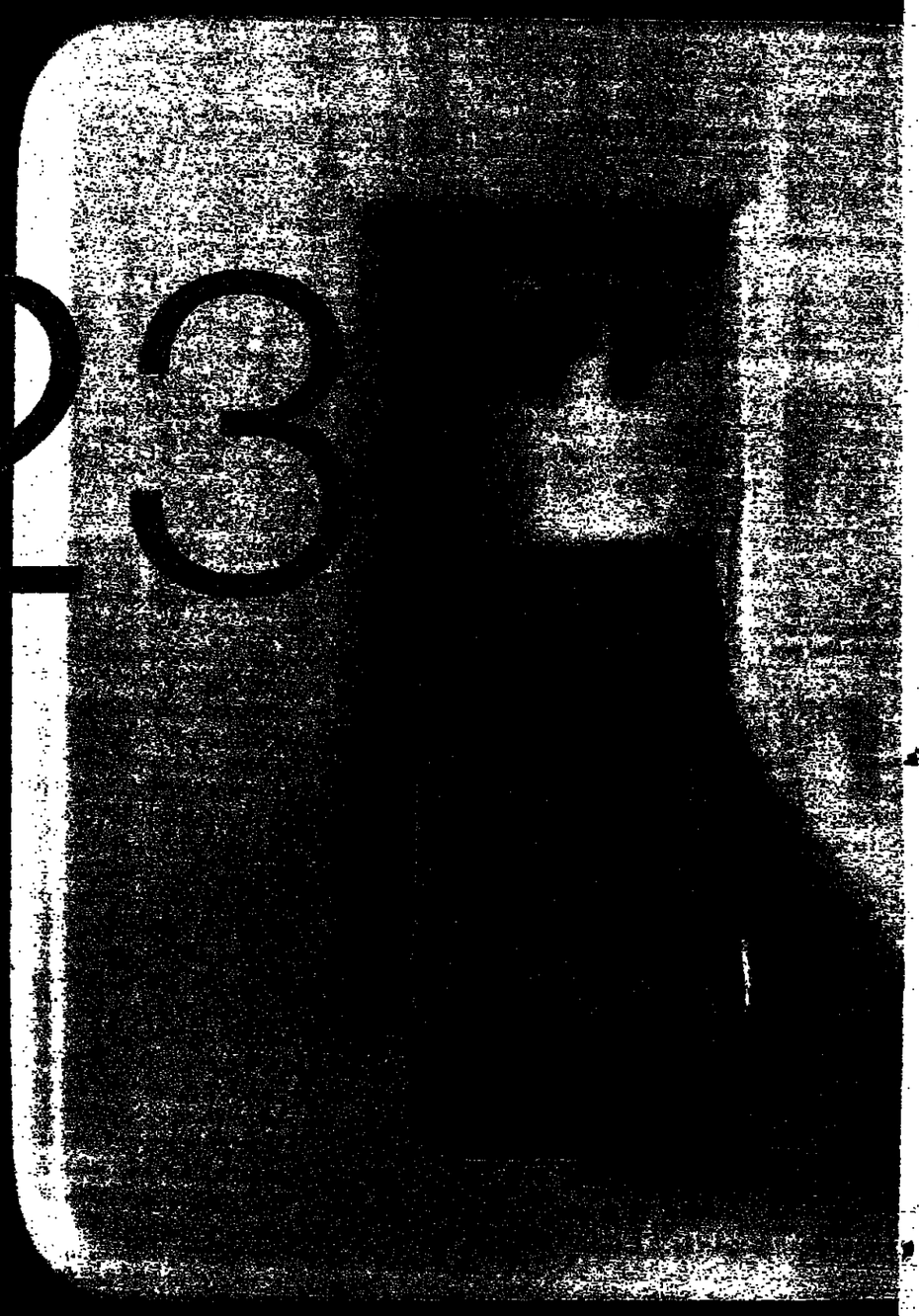
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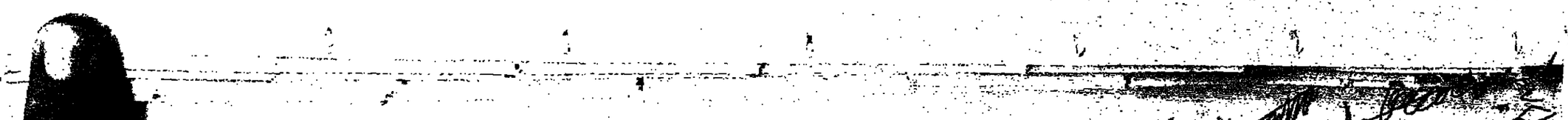
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Police chiefs get power to sack corrupt officers

Jack Straw answers pleas for action by streamlining forces' disciplinary system, reports Stewart Tendler

JACK STRAW is to give chief constables the power to sack corrupt or lazy police officers without delay.

The Home Secretary will announce the biggest shake-up of the handling of police complaints and discipline in decades in the Commons next week. The main reform will be a reduction in the burden of proof used against officers facing discipline hearings.

Under his plan, disciplinary hearings will judge evidence on the civil court test of "on the balance of probabilities" rather than the more stringent test of "beyond reasonable doubt" used in criminal cases.

Mr Straw will also ban officers from taking early retirement on health grounds to escape disciplinary charges and possible punishment. At the moment investigations are delayed if an officer goes sick. To stop this happening, the Home Secretary will introduce regulations allowing forces to hear the case in his or her absence.

Officers caught committing crimes will be sacked within days. At the moment a chief constable has to suspend them on full pay until the end of criminal proceedings. If officers under investigation refuse to answer questions, *this could be used against* them at a disciplinary hearing.

Officers who are lazy or incompetent could also find themselves facing the sack unless they can improve their performance within six months.

The measures come after pressure from chief constables and a report from the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs urging Mr Straw to streamline and modernise an unwieldy system which has been abused by corrupt officers. The changes would also bring the police closer to civilian employment practice.

Mr Straw has also considered setting up an independent complaints unit to investigate the police rather than continuing to let forces carry out inquiries themselves. But he decided that the *costs would be too high and* the practical arrangements too complex, and has deferred action.

During talks with police groups, Mr Straw has agreed that any officer facing a hearing which could result in dismissal, demotion or forced resignation should have legal representation. He has also decided that reports by investigators for forces and the Police Complaints Authority should not be passed over to complainants.

Yesterday Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, representing 126,000 junior officers, said that many of the changes would be welcomed by his members and the federation had itself advocated a number of them. But he said the federation was unhappy that the lower standard of proof would apply to officers who could be facing the sack.

He accused senior officers of bouncing Mr Straw into action by grabbing headlines, although their own performance left much to be desired. Mr Broughton said it was ironic that Peter Bensley, the *Chief Constable of Lincolnshire* and a national spokesman on discipline and complaints, "has had to fall on his sword over his force's three-year victimisation of woman inspector Cydena Fleming".

The inspector, who had been suspended for discipline offences, was ordered to be reinstated and cleared of all charges after taking her case to an industrial tribunal. She had been suspended on full pay for two years while bringing a claim for sex discrimination.

Mr Broughton said : "Proposals for instant dismissal advocated by her own chief constable may never have allowed her to clear her name."

DAVID JONES / PA



Straw: aims to cut abuse of complaints procedure

Top prison warder fiddled his expenses

By Paul Wilkinson

A SENIOR prison officer was jailed for 16 months yesterday for fiddling his expenses.

Keith Mather kept his divorce from his first wife secret so that he could claim relocation costs at the rate for married staff. He also told his colleagues that his second wife was his landlady, so that he could claim expenses for his accommodation.

Mather, 40, was told by Judge James Barry at Leeds Crown Court that he had left his colleagues in the Prison Service wide open to claims from inmates that there was hypocrisy among officers.

Mather admitted ten counts of obtaining money totalling £17,000 by deception. His second wife, Susan, admitted six charges. She was given an eight-month sentence, suspended for two years and ordered to pay £2,000 compensation.

Rodney Ferm, for Mather, said: "He will find that, for some prisoners, the clanging of the prison gates is worse than for any others."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The man who tamed New York



This week Brooklyn recorded its lowest murder rate since the second world war. In The Sunday Times tomorrow, former New York police chief William Bratton tells how he brought the city back from the brink, in an exclusive extract from his new book, Turnaround

Constables who sold Ecstasy are spared jail

By Michael Horsnell

TWO policemen escaped with community service orders yesterday for supplying Ecstasy tablets. A judge said they did not deserve to go to prison and he condemned another officer who set them up and sold the story to a newspaper.

A senior lawyer in the Crown Prosecution Service criticised the sentences. "This is unthinkable," he said. "The usual sentence for supplying one or two tablets of Ecstasy on a social basis is 12 to 15 months. These two men were policemen ... They knew more than most the criminality of what they were doing."

Constable John Capello, 36, based at Paddington Green police station in West London, and his friend, Constable Keith Roberts, 27, were each sentenced to 200 hours' community service.

Judge George Bathurst Norman, who branded the drug a "killer", told them he would have considered imprisonment if they had not admitted a crime that was engineered by PC Sean Hallewell.

Tudor Owen, for the prosecution, told Southwark Crown Court that Roberts had extolled the virtues of taking Ecstasy to PC Hallewell. PC Hallewell, who declined to try it, had already known that Capello was an Ecstasy user.

"Pc Hallewell suspected that the officers would not only take Ecstasy but, because of their apparent knowledge of the drugs culture, would supply it if asked to do so." He added: "What Hellewell did next was totally wrong. Instead of *using proper channels*, he contacted the *News of the World*."

PC Hallewell was paid an undisclosed sum for revealing the story and giving his assistance. On August 25, 1996 the *News of the World* published an article naming the two officers.

Capello later admitted to police selling PC Hallewell four tablets for £40 while Roberts sold him two for £20.

The judge told them: "You were effectively set up because there is not one shred of evidence that either of you supplied drugs to anyone before you supplied them to Hallewell." He added that the *News of the World* had distorted the true picture and made the officers out to be major drug dealers, which they were not.

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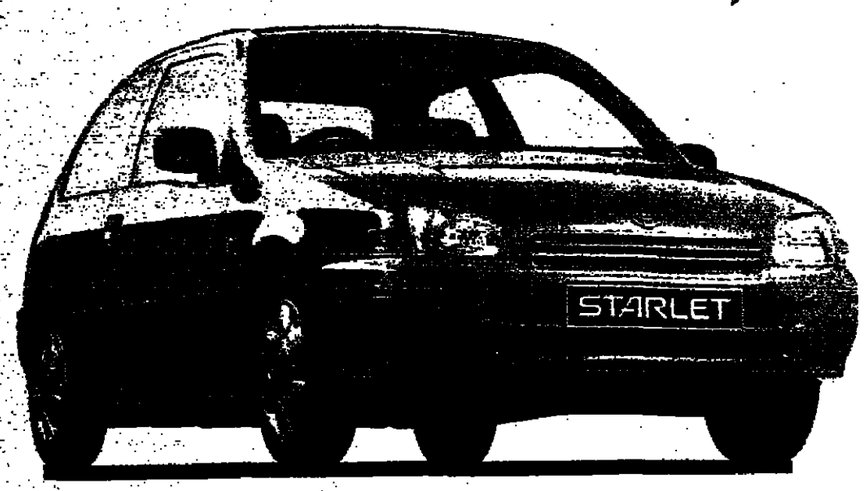
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Scaring the geese away is the option favoured by Scottish Natural Heritage, but the birds tend merely to gather in another field

MIKE WILKINSON



Islay's geese population is growing rapidly as farmers are paid to feed them

Farmers fuming while the geese are getting fat

Magnus Linklater on a conservation scheme that is flying out of control



Ronnie Torrance: "The land is being ruined"

THEY rose from the field outside Ronnie Torrance's Islay farm like a swarm of locusts, their wings thrashing the air, their warning call a deafening chorus. As they wheeled away, they seemed to fill the sky, wave after wave of them, rising towards the hills.

"It's one of nature's great sights," says Stewart Housden, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Mr Torrance, 73, and a farmer for most of his life, takes a different view. In the field where the geese have been, he points to acres of what was once spring grass and is now just flattened mud. "It breaks your heart," he said. "There's nothing worse than seeing thousands of geese grazing good grass down to the earth. Nothing can compensate a farmer for that."

But it is compensation — the subsidies paid to farmers to allow the geese on their land — that is, in part at least, responsible for what has become a crisis of conservation. The numbers of barnacle and whitefront geese which now pour onto the island on the West Coast of Scotland every October and stay until April, before heading back to nest in Greenland, are rising out of control because farmers are paid to feed them, rather than to scare them off as they used to do.

For five years now, they have earned a £9.50 subsidy for every goose counted feeding on their fields. For some, that can amount to nearly £10,000 a year, though the average is nearer £1,500. Shooting has been banned on the island's sporting estates. Scaring off the geese is frowned on. The result has been a stupendous success story for conservation, or an agricultural disaster — depending on how you look at it.

"We are now feeding geese instead of farming, for six months a year," says Gill Johnstone, secretary of the local farmers' union. "Grass is our livelihood. Without it in spring, our growing season is restricted, our seeding costs have risen, there's less silage, so we have to buy in feed. It's costing farmers far more than they are paid."

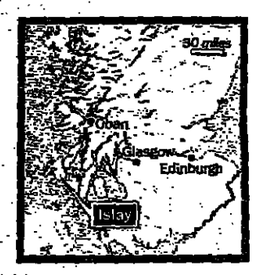
Scottish Natural Heritage, the government body that administers the goose management scheme, concedes that farmers are suffering, but says that already the subsidy is costing the organisation £300,000 a year. They have added 50p per goose, but will not go higher.

In 20 years, the goose population of Islay has risen from about 20,000 to 46,000. With an increase of some 7 per cent every year, no one doubts that a crisis figure of 50,000 is close. Supported by subsidies under the common agricultural policy, the farmers of Islay have improved fields and increased their grass yield by adding fertilisers. When, in 1982, the Wildlife and Countryside Act came into force, protecting the barnacle and whitefront, the geese were able to enjoy rich feeding inland from their traditional coastline haunts, without interruption. Their newly acquired expensive tastes meant fatter, healthier birds, larger broods, better survival rates. Islay, not surprisingly, is their favourite haunt.

"It is true that farmers have been cajoled and encouraged to improve their land," said Douglas Gilbert, local representative of Scottish Natural Heritage. "To an extent they are victims of their own success." He concedes that what began as a scheme to save an endangered species is now posing a big problem. "We've lost the plot with geese. It's easy to create legislation — it's less easy to extract yourself."

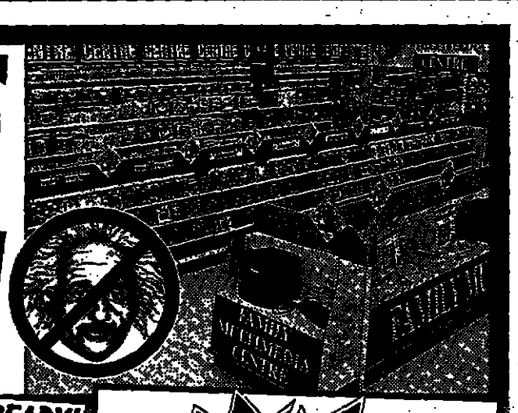
As to solving that problem, no one seems able to agree. Several farmers on the island now believe that nothing short of a massive cull will do. Mr Housden, Scottish director of the RSPB, rejects that solution out of hand. "Military-style culling is out," he said. "Europe wouldn't allow it, and the public wouldn't stand for it."

Scare tactics, using teams of people to prevent geese landing, is the option most favoured by Scottish Natural Heritage. It was tried ten years ago, but simply shifted geese from one field to another. Mr Gilbert believes that it could be done again, more scientifically. But even here, there is a conflict of interest. The RSPB, which owns a 4,500-acre estate on the island, is deliberately cultivating land to attract the geese. They would still want the so-called Special Protection Areas to continue, though Mr Houseden concedes that some scaring and possibly even shooting might be introduced eventually.

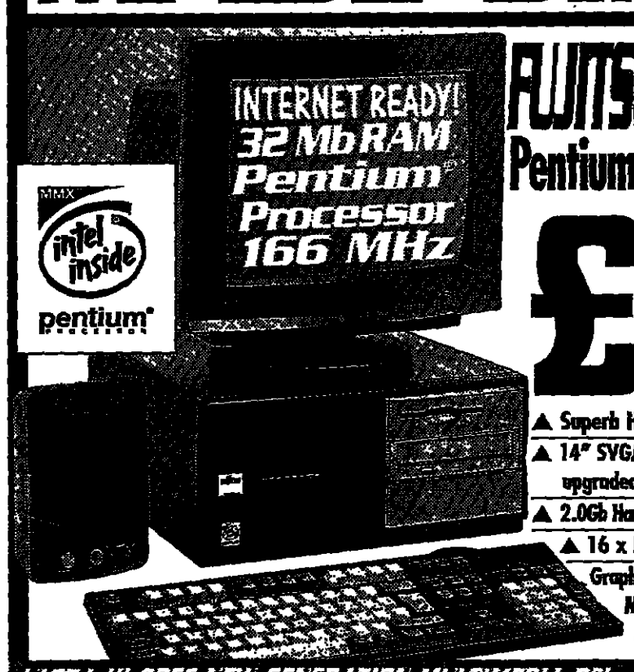


In the meantime, Ronnie Torrance looks on glumly as another flock descends on his newly seeded grass. "The compensation is up, the numbers are up, and the land is being ruined," he said. "We've fallen into the pockets of the conservationists, and we just don't know how to get out again."

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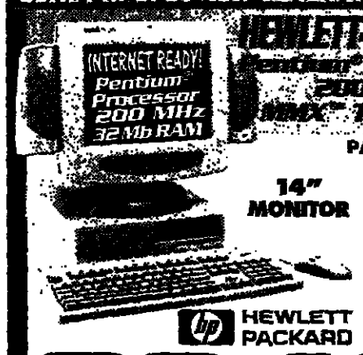
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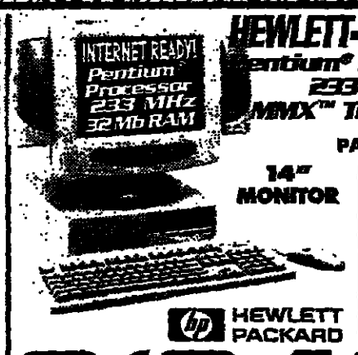
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Dance to the music of time

Cha-cha-changes are afoot on the dancefloor, with big bands leading, reports Ruth Gledhill

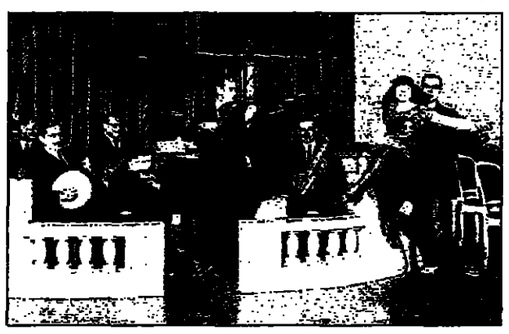




Blanche Ingle and Ken Bateman received £5 and a free dinner to start the dancing in the Fifties. The Savoy's Midnight Ball, right, was a highlight of the London social calendar before the First World War







Dinner dancing at the Savoy began with one brave couple in 1913. Soon everyone found it hard to resist. In the 1920s, right, Tango Teas started

At The Savoy in London tonight, crowds of young people will take to the dancefloor — not to stomp to a disco beat but to do the quickstep and the samba accompanied by a big band.

Forty years after rock'n'roll sent ballroom dancing twisting into decline, big band music and the old-fashioned waltz are making an elegant comeback. Tonight and every Saturday this year, The Savoy is rolling back the carpet on the sprung maple dancefloor where Noël Coward danced in the 1940s.

Seated at the spot where Judy Campbell performed *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square* during the Blitz, the Piccadilly Dance Orchestra will strike up hits from the 1920s and 1930s such as *Shall We Dance* and *Happy Days are Here Again*.

It is hoped that Miss Campbell, 80, will return to sing *Nightingale* for the dancers as they quickstep, waltz, foxtrot and cha-cha-cha in the Thames Foyer, where dinner-dancing began at the turn of the century.

The acceptance of ballroom dancing as an Olympic sport and the surge in young people learning to dance in the "old-fashioned way" encouraged The Savoy to reinstate ballroom dancing on the 10 by 20-metre floor where afternoon tea is taken.

The hotel, opened by Richard D'Oyly Carte in 1889, believes there is a fast-growing demand for traditional entertainment where men can be "gentlemen" and women "ladies", and where they can dress up with style to go dancing cheek-to-cheek.

Up to five million people in Britain go dancing regularly, according to research presented at a recent seminar, *Dance in the City*, at the ICA in Central London. But with the conversion of dozens of ballrooms into bingo halls and discotheques, dancers have been forced underground — into church halls, small studios and anywhere that they can find a few feet of unoccupied floorspace. Those determined to go on with the dance frequent the regular tea dances at the Waldorf and the Café de Paris in London, or the packed social dances across the country, such as at the Coliseum in Watford. Traditional big band dancing, however, has become difficult to find outside private parties, weddings and "dance sport" competitions.

Michael Law, leader of the Piccadilly Dance Orchestra, which includes saxophones, brass, drums, piano and female vocalist, said: "What The Savoy is doing is absolutely wonderful. The floor is large and just the right space. The atmosphere is great.

"We are using the original printed arrangements from the Twenties and Thirties, as well as arrangements I've copied myself from old recordings. There is a revival of ballroom dancing. Swing, jive and lindy hop from the Thirties are also making a comeback, not to mention the Charleston.

"The heavy backbeat of rock'n'roll knocked it all on the head in the Sixties. But youngsters are rediscovering how thrilling and exhilarating these old tunes are.

"They have a real bounce, and they are used in so many films and advertisements today that young people find they know all the tunes already. They are becoming aware of the wealth of good music from their grandparents' generation and they want to dance."

Susan Scott, 29, Savoy archivist, who is learning the Argentine tango, said: "People have not forgotten the music of Carroll Gibbons and Geraldo. It is not dead. It is not even on its last gasp. There are hundreds of young people like me who enjoy it."

Dancing was introduced at The Savoy by the manager, César Ritz, who joined the hotel in 1890, and was responsible for hiring the chef Auguste Escoffier. "He wanted to make it respectable for ladies to dine out in hotels in public," Miss Scott said. "Women did dine out, but they were not necessarily the kind of women you could take home to your mother.

"César Ritz got Lady de Grey, the society hostess, to bring in a party of people and placed them discreetly behind screens. Once she did it, everybody did it. He also introduced pink tablecloths and soft lighting, and invited bands in to play live music. There is a legend that one of the Strauss family was brought in once to play. Then, one day in May 1913, a couple got up and started dancing between the tables. Other people looked and thought it seemed like fun, and that was how dinner-dancing began."

The BBC began broadcasting live band music from The Savoy in 1923, and it was relayed directly to dance halls, obviating the need for their own musical arrangements.

The hotel went on to lead the tango craze in the Twenties, when it introduced "Tango Teas" and even the Prince of Wales took to the floor. Rudolph Valentino was said to cause havoc among mothers and daughters when he moved to the music of band leader Geraldo, the European pioneer of the rumba.

According to *The Savoy*, a history of the hotel by Stanley Jackson, one dancer, M Max, used to ride in Rotten Row and then drive his Rolls-Royce to the hotel to demonstrate intricate dancesteps like the Scissor. His luggage included 120 pairs of shoes.

Ken Bateman and Blanche Ingle, who are in their seventies, were employed to dance nightly at The Savoy in the 1950s. "Our job was to start off the dancing in the evening. When other people started to get up on the floor, our job was to sit down," said Mr Bateman, who now teaches in Slough.

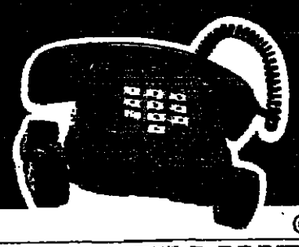
They were given a free dinner and paid £5. "It was a nice, easy job. The floor used to be packed. It is fantastic that they are bringing this back."

Wolfgang Winter, Savoy spokesman and a former competitive ballroom dancer, said: "There has always been dinner dancing at The Savoy, Claridge's and other hotels, but this is different. Although we serve supper for the dancers, this is for people who come to listen to music and to dance.

"Big band dancing died out at The Savoy many years ago. For a long time, dancing has been reserved for parties and weddings. But now dance schools are experiencing a resurgence of interest. People are rediscovering the joy of dance."

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THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

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OUR MUMS DESERVE THE BEST THIS MOTHER'S DAY.

The Recipe for Love

BRITISH MEAT
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Primary pupils are set literacy targets

Guidelines on reading, spelling and grammar stress traditional teaching methods, reports **John O'Leary**

CHILDREN will be expected to read and understand more than 200 words set by the Government by the age of 7 under the most detailed instructions given to schools on the teaching of reading, spelling and grammar.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, has abandoned the convention that ministers should not dictate teaching methods by issuing term-by-term guidance covering the first six years of school. The "Framework for Teaching" emphasises traditional methods, using phonics (sounding out letters) and working with whole classes.

Guidelines, issued yesterday, include a suggested breakdown of the hour a day for which all primary pupils will have to study literacy. Schools will be sent detailed proposals next term, but two thirds of the time will be devoted to whole-class teaching.

Mr Blunkett has made improving basic literacy and numeracy his priority, setting a target of 80 per cent of 11-year-olds reaching their expected level in English by 2002. He has already reduced the compulsory curriculum in primary schools to make room for literacy and numeracy hours, and today he will announce an expansion of summer literacy schools.

The Education Secretary said the framework used "tried and tested teaching methods" from the United States and Australia, as well as Britain. "It is a practical tool for day-to-day teaching, as well as an aid to head teachers and governors."

Four and five-year-olds in reception classes will be expected to learn 45 "high-frequency" words, including *mum*, *dad* and *going*. By the end of their second full year of school, they should have added another 150 words, including *because* and *people*, and learnt the days of the week, months, numbers up to 20, common colours, and their home and school addresses.

After a year of "reinforcement", children will be expected to add to their vocabulary. Teachers will be given another 115 words, such as *different* and *suddenly*, which pupils should be able to spell.

The framework says: "It is not intended that teachers should go slavishly through the lists, teaching by drilling." "Phonological awareness" should be the first step to reading, rather than the current mixture of methods.

Grammatical awareness is also included although, recognising the limitations of some teachers' knowledge of grammar, the framework includes an 18-page glossary of terms, including the definition of a noun and a fact.

Mr Blunkett will today announce a £5 million extension of the summer literacy school programme, which began last year. As well as 562 new summer schools, helping about 15,000 children entering secondary education, there will be a pilot programme of up to 40 numeracy schools.

John Sutton, the general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said it would be delighted if the measures worked because of a drop in literacy levels among entrants to its schools between 1994 and 1996. But he added: "We would have concern at overprescription."

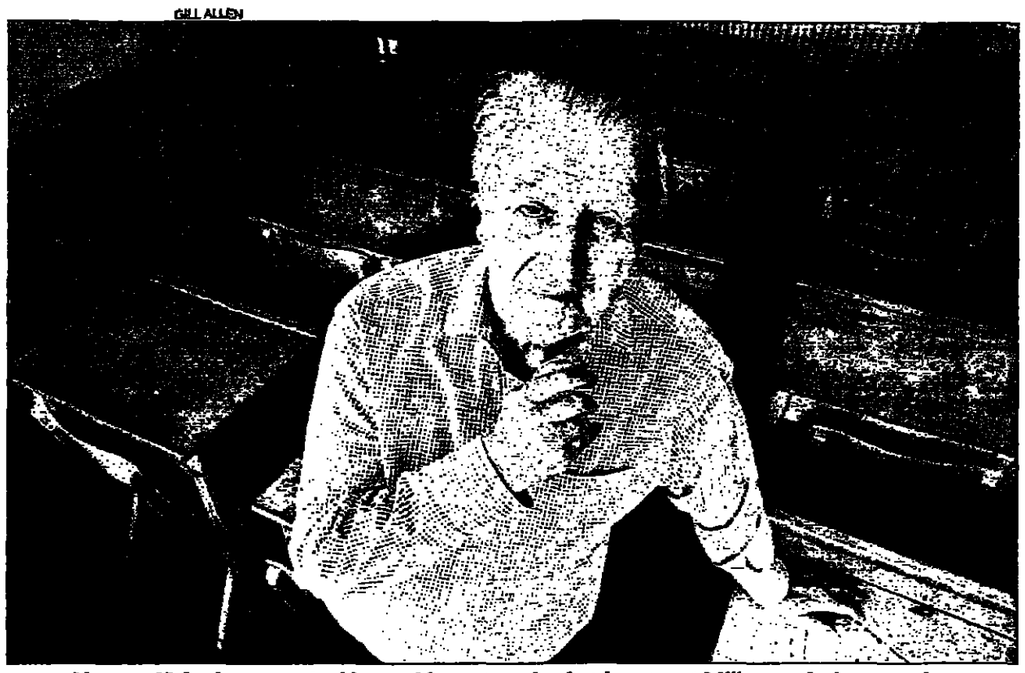
Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Any attempt to enforce the guidelines against the professional judgment of teachers will reverse the good intentions."

200 WORDS EVERY SEVEN-YEAR-OLD SHOULD KNOW

Words to be taught in reception year
I, up, look, we, like, and, on, at, for, he, is, said, go, you, are, this, going, they, away, play, a, am, cat, to, come, day, the, dog, big, my, mum, no, dad, all, get, in, went, was, of, me, she, see, it, yes, can.

Words to be taught in Years 1-2
About, after, again, an, another, as, back, ball, be, because, bed, been, boy, brother, but, by, call(ed), came, can't, could, did, do, don't, dig, door, down, first, from, girl, good, got, had, half, has, have, help, her, here, him, his, home, house, how, if, jump, just, last, laugh, little, five(d), love, made, make, man, many, may, more, much, must, name, new, next, night, not, now, off, old, once, one, or, our, out, over, people, push, pull, put, ran, saw, school, seen, should, sister, so, some, take, than, that, their, them, then, there, these, three, time, too, took, tree, two, us, very, want, water, way, were, what, when, where, who, will, with, would, your.

Plus days of the week, months of the year, numbers to 20, common colour words, pupil's name and address, name and address of the school.


GILL ALLEN

Norman Hale, the country's oldest and longest-serving headmaster, at Milbourne Lodge yesterday

Fifty years on, old ways are still best

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S longest-serving headmaster yesterday celebrated his 50th year running a prep school so traditional that pupils may get a telling-off if they write their Latin homework on a word processor.

Norman Hale was 28 when he became owner and headmaster of Milbourne Lodge in Esher, Surrey, in 1948. He has stuck to the same curriculum since.

At the highly academic prep school, the 200 day pupils aged seven to 13 are streamed. Mostly boys, they face the front in rows and have regular competitive tests and compulsory games every day. There is Latin from the age of eight and Greek for the top set at ten. The A stream competes for scholarships at the best independent schools with outstanding success: Milbourne has won 72 scholarships to Eton and Winchester in the past 22 years.

"We don't have any stupid people here, so the standard is very high," said Mr Hale, who is a fierce critic of the national curriculum. "We don't touch new-fangled things like this craft, design and technology nonsense." The school had computers, but "not for learning", he said. "I am against it because I deplore computer games. They aren't reading so much and this makes it hard to keep them at it. At this rate, they will have forgotten how to write in ten years."

Twenty years ago Mr Hale was persuaded to admit girls. The 20 currently at the school take part in all the boys' activities, including rugby. "I saw one get a try the year before last," Mr Hale said. "Good tackler she was, too."

His larger-than-life reputation is based on an unquenchable passion for the school. He is always on the touchline for rugby and football matches, teaches 17 classics lessons a week and claims not to have missed one day in 50 years. He also keeps fees low, at £1,650 a term.

Parents and old boys cannot praise him highly enough. A recent letter from a proud parent detailed the successes of 40 boys five years after they had left. Eight had had offers for Oxford or Cambridge.

While some of his older old boys have already retired, Mr Hale fully intends to continue for some years yet.

Harsh regime at Dartmoor is unjustified, says inspector

■ **Some prisoners spend 21 hours a day in their cells and are allowed to shower only at the weekend, reports Richard Ford**

PRISONERS on the lowest of three regimes at Dartmoor have unnecessarily harsh conditions, including showering only at weekends, according to a report published yesterday.

Inmates on the basic regime were allowed only 30 minutes' exercise a day and were barred from using the jail's gymnasium, the Chief Inspector of Prisons found. In one wing most inmates on the basic regime were locked up for 21 hours a day because there was no work for them and prisoners who had visits at weekends lost one opportunity to shower.

Regimes at the jail are based on an incentive system that rewards good behaviour. Most inmates are on a standard level, allowing them to spend £10 a week, mix with other inmates, watch television on four evenings a week and have two visits a month. The enhanced level allows more privileges.

An inmate on a basic regime can spend £2.50 a week, have one visit a month and mix with other offenders only at weekends for two hours.

Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, adds that he found insufficient documentation to justify putting the small proportion of inmates on the basic regime or keeping them on it.

But he reserves his strongest criticism for the cut of almost £1 million on the jail's budget, resulting in the axing of three training courses, a 50 per cent reduction in education provision and insufficient Category D inmates to work on the 1,600-acre prison farm.

Sir David says that a rising jail population and cash cuts mean prisons are unable to deal effectively with the criminal culture. "To be frank, these trends are making it more and more impossible for prisons to tackle offending behaviour, which is bound to have an effect on society when prisoners, their anti-social, criminal behaviour unchallenged, are released."

Sir David adds: "Any prison which is not tackling offending behaviour is not responding to the call to prevent crime, and for the long as well as short term good of the country, as well as the individual, must be enabled to do so. That is a ministerial as well as a Prison Service responsibility."

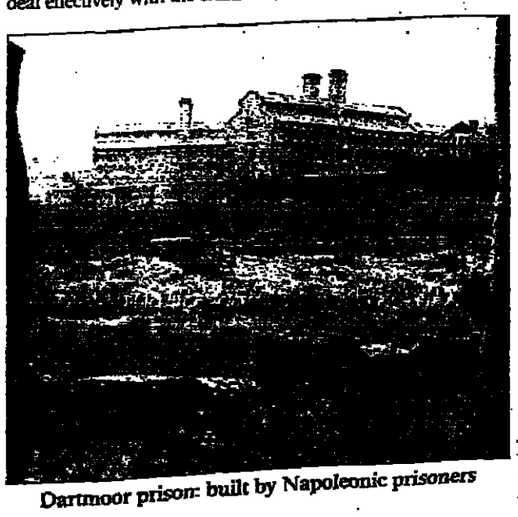
He praises the governor and staff at Dartmoor for their positive attitude, which had led to improvements at the Category B jail holding 652 inmates. Dartmoor, he says, is well on the way to overcoming many of the myths surrounding a jail built by French prisoners in 1805-09.

Its grim reputation has been fostered by its isolated setting in Devon, its granite walls and its past as a top-security jail that held some of the country's most notorious offenders.

Among new initiatives is the introduction of acupuncture in a drug-free wing to help to ease the symptoms of drug withdrawal. "Many [inmates] state they found it enabled them to relax and to cope with the penal environment," the report says.

Joyce Quin, Prisons Minister, said that further work and education places had been created at Dartmoor since the Chief Inspector's inspection in November last year.

☐ *HM Prison Dartmoor, Report of a Full Inspection*, by the Chief Inspector of Prisons (Home Office)


Dartmoor prison: built by Napoleonic prisoners

NEWS IN BRIEF

Motorist who killed woman was insane

A disabled driver who killed a woman and injured four others has been acquitted of dangerous driving by reason of insanity. The jury at Norwich Crown Court was asked by the prosecution to find Reginald Pull, 46, from Shotesham, Norfolk, who has multiple sclerosis, not guilty because he was legally insane. The jury was told they could not return a guilty verdict but deliberate only on the reason for a not guilty verdict.

Judge Michael Hyam imposed guardianship proceedings placing Mr Pull in the care of a psychiatrist. His driving licence was revoked soon after the accident.

Cup bid backed

British Airways, Littlewoods, Marks & Spencer, Umbro and Nationwide signed sponsorship deals worth £1.25 million to back England's bid to stage the 2006 World Cup. They are the first firms to support the Football Association, after the Government endorsed the bid.

Dancer dies

A British ballet dancer has died from head injuries after falling into the orchestra pit during rehearsals by the Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam. Alexander Money-Kyrle, 35, from Plymouth, had run to help the artistic director, who had also fallen.

Nail apology

The Provost of Bradford Cathedral has apologised to parents who objected to seven and eight-year-old pupils being handed two three-inch nails after a talk at the cathedral on the meaning of Easter. One mother said it was irresponsible.

Charity ride

A solicitor killed on a sponsored motorcycle ride around the world has raised £50,000 for charity. Paul McGowran, 33, of Prestatyn, Clywd, was hit by a bus in Indonesia last year. The money was divided between the Cancer Research Campaign and two hospices.

Hot pot of gold

Jonathan Wilson, a businessman in Hong Kong, is flying two cooks from his parents' favourite restaurant on the Isle of Wight to Perth, Australia, to prepare a special meal for their golden wedding: Lancashire hot pot, followed by bread and butter pudding.

CORRECTION

Film footage from a Brentwood council CCTV camera (report, February 23) did not depict a man attempting to commit suicide; a challenge to the council's decision to release the film to the BBC did not succeed.

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Tarantino: Arkin role

Giggles for Quentin's thriller act

THE stage debut of Quentin Tarantino in a Boston trial run of Wait Until Dark has been predictably ridiculed by critics. The cultish auteur — *Pulp Fiction, Reservoir Dogs, Jackie Brown* — terrorises a blind woman, reprising Alan Arkin's 1967 film role alongside Audrey Hepburn. The "hard-working amateur" was said to "pack as much menace as Dennis", while at key moments "there were giggles rather than gasps". Needless to say, tickets are selling well for the Broadway run which starts at the end of this month.

But seriously, he has eyes on White House

JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK



NEW YORKERS are worrying that their "control freak" Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, is spinning out of control. Just as he ponders a bid for the presidency — or at least the vice-presidency — in 2000, his increasingly erratic behaviour has become a source of alarm. A staunch Republican in a traditionally Democratic city, Mr Giuliani shocked constituents by dressing up in drag — as a glamorous Italian-American grandmother — on a television show. He then donned a "Beast" outfit at a dinner for journalists.

This is the man who, days earlier, had proclaimed a "civility" initiative to stop New Yorkers shouting at each other. The Mayor takes his campaign so seriously that when a Grammy Awards official insulted a member of his staff, he threatened to kick the lucrative music-industry event out of town — prompting the *New Yorker* to dub him "the rudest anti-rudeness guy in town".

Showing signs of hubris after November's landslide victory gave him a second — and last — four-year term, Mr Giuliani is expanding his successful crackdown on "quality-of-life" crimes to tackle jaywalking, sex shops and foul-mouthed taxi-drivers. Unfortunately, he does not always practise what he preaches. Soon after ordering police to enforce speed limits, a reporter tailed his official car and found the chauffeur hit 66mph in a 40mph zone. The Mayor held a news conference to denounce the report, then his car drove off and hit a taxi.

Despite the barrage of ridicule, Mr Giuliani seems intent on seeking national office. He hosts a Republican National Committee strategy session in July and travels regularly to key states. Aides say his best chance may be as vice-presidential running-mate to Governor George Bush of Texas. Many are asking, however, whether the Mayor will be put in a straitjacketed first.

☐ It's tax time in America: A passer-by flipped a dollar at a homeless man. The bum handed him a receipt "in case the Internal Revenue Service questions you".

Heat's on in bitch hunt

EVER since Prodigy's Smack My Bitch Up *topped the music charts last year, this misogynist term has crossed from black street slang to become almost ubiquitous in US popular culture. Now Elizabeth Wurtzel, the pop-culture pundit who penned* Prozac Nation, *has a collection of essays coming out in praise of so-called "difficult" women, including Sylvia Plath, Dorothy Parker, Liz Taylor and O.J.'s wife, Nicole Brown Simpson. The title is simply* — Bitch.

JOE DeMARIA / AP



Rudolph Giuliani as "Rudy or the Beast" at a journalists' dinner

Huff over DiCaprio in the buff

THE editrix of *Playgirl* has suddenly become conscience-stricken over the possible publication of unauthorised nude pictures of Hollywood's top male star.

Ceslie Armstrong, who thought nudity was going to be toned down, has parted company with the women's skin mag after learning executives planned to publish naked shots of Leonardo DiCaprio, the boyish sex symbol who this week became the first leading man to appear in simultaneous top two box-office draws — *Titanic* and *The Man in the Iron Mask*.

"It goes against my ethics," Ms Armstrong griped. "It's an invasion of privacy."

☐ Oleg Cassini, designer of Jackie Kennedy's pillbox hat, has filed a trademark infringement suit against the California Institute of Technology for calling its rocket, off to Saturn in October, the Cassini Space Probe. The fashion legend, who says he is descended from the 17th-century astronomer Jean Dominique Cassini, dislikes CalTech selling Cassini jewellery, mugs and T-shirts.

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US critics shower praise on British star of 'Cabaret'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK



Richardson: the new darling of Broadway

THE British actress Natasha Richardson is the darling of New York after swooning critics likened her debut in the latest Broadway revival of the musical *Cabaret* to the memorable performance by Liza Minnelli in the 1970 film directed by Bob Fosse. One critic even compared her with Sir Laurence Olivier.

The musical, at the Henry Miller Theatre, is directed by the Londoner Sam Mendes, and opened here on Thursday night. Writing yesterday in *The New York Times*, the theatre critic Ben Brantley could scarcely restrain his admiration for the young actress. "When Natasha Richardson performs the title number of *Cabaret* . . . you'll probably find yourself grinning in a way you seldom do at musicals these days. For what Ms Richardson does is reclaim and reinvent a showbiz anthem that is as familiar as Hamlet's soliloquy."

Although Brantley is lukewarm about the production, his praise for Ms Richardson, who plays Sally Bowles, appears unalloyed. He writes: "You would be foolish . . . to miss the extraordinary Ms Richardson . . . who is here giving what promises to be the performance of the season. Her Sally Bowles is a dazzling example of how star power can be harnessed to create a devastating portrait of someone who is definitely not a star. You'll find yourself thinking less of Ms Minelli's winning screwball gamine in the same part than of Laurence Olivier in *The Entertainer*." *Los Angeles Times* writers were also impressed.

The only discordant note in the symphony of praise for Ms Richardson was struck by Lloyd Rose, for *The Washington Post*, who wrote: "Natasha Richardson, as a poignantly over-the-hill Sally Bowles, has only a pleasant enough voice. She can't phrase a song. She hits her notes, but her delivery is emotionally flat."

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Cosmetic changes boost Moscow

The offer of cut-price plastic surgery lures British women to Russia, writes Richard Beeston in Moscow

MOSCOW'S creaking healthcare system may seem an unlikely magnet for rich foreigners seeking delicate surgery. But in an extraordinary twist, the Russian capital has become a mini boom town for plastic surgery, attracting patients from as far away as London and Sydney seeking cheap and reliable facelifts, breast implants and liposuction.

While many Russian hospitals are struggling to survive on pitiful government subsidies, a number of private clinics have opened in the past few years offering the latest technology at far lower prices than in the West.

Jenny Harding, 44, a London skin therapist, who has been over to Moscow twice for laser resurfacing and is planning another visit to have cheek implants, said that word was spreading fast in the beauty industry about the advantages of Moscow.

"I decided to go to Moscow after one of my clients came in singing their praises. I was a little apprehensive at first. But I was very impressed by the honesty and the professionalism of the doctors," she said.

She arrived wanting a facelift, but was told that she did not need one and instead opted for laser treatment. "That would be unheard of in Britain, where plastic surgeons never turn down a chance to make money," she said.

After two visits to the Centre for Aesthetic Dermatology and Surgery in Moscow, she estimates the cost of the treatment, travel and accommodation at about £3,000, £1,000 cheaper than in Britain.

A visit to the clinic revealed a state-of-the-art cosmetic surgery centre, in stark contrast to its surroundings in the dilapidated Russian Academy of Sciences hospital. The obvious financial success of the clinic and others like it in Moscow is due in part to the boom in the fashion and cosmetics industry in Russia after the collapse of communism.

In Soviet times it was possible to have plastic surgery carried out very cheaply, but the waiting list was endless and in practice top surgeons were reserved for the wives of the *nomenklatura*, such as Raisa Gorbachev, the last Soviet leader's wife to have a facelift.

Now a generation of women who feel deprived of the opportunities available to their Western counterparts are clamouring for cosmetic surgery.

Aside from the fabulously wealthy new Russians, who usually choose Harley Street or Switzerland for their medical needs, most of the Russian women interested in plastic surgery are part of the emerging middle class, either professionals or the wives of professionals.

"We get all sorts of people coming in, men and women, old and young, there is huge demand," said Dr Vladimir Tapia Fernández, a Bolivian surgeon who worked extensively in Europe before opening his own clinic in Moscow.

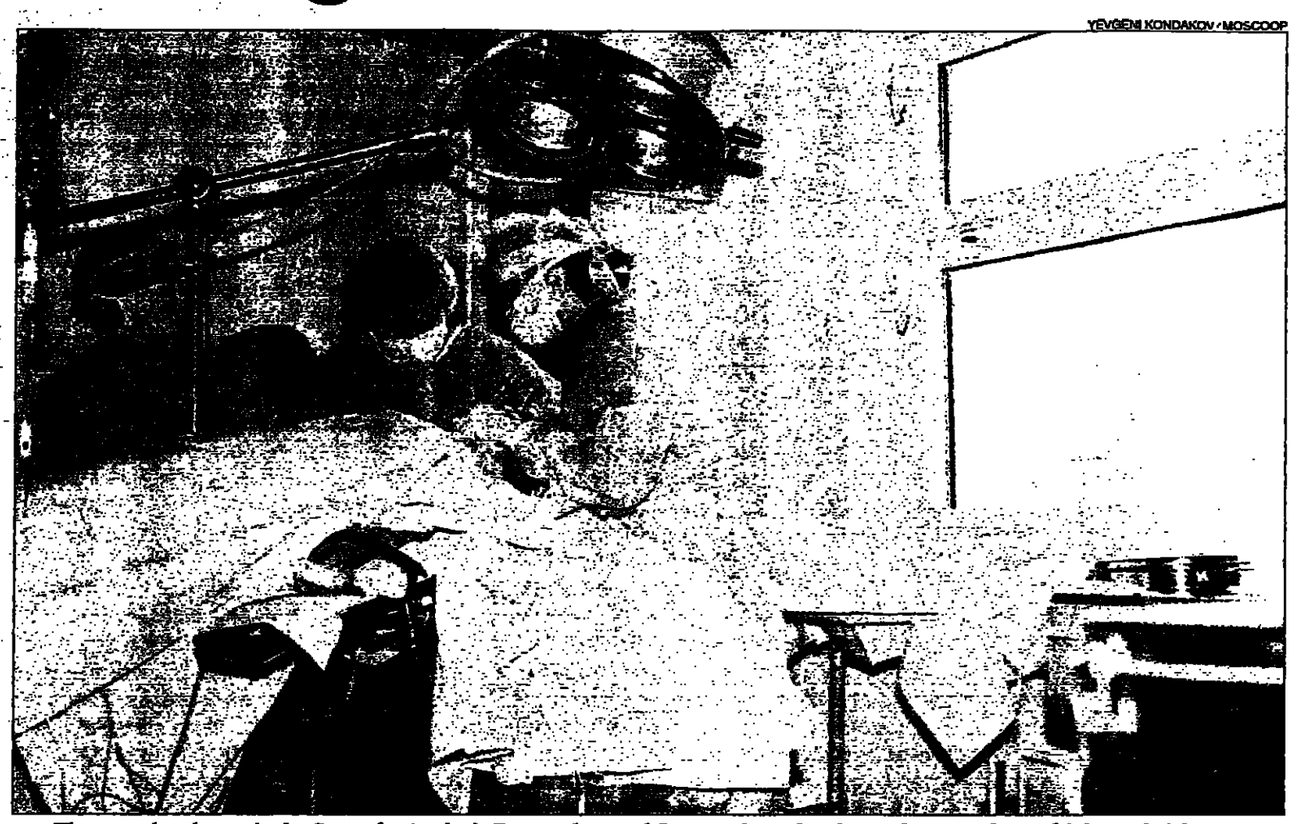
His reputation is such that this week he carried out breast reduction surgery on a patient who flew all the way from Australia. "He operated on me once before and I was impressed," said the patient. "When you trust a doctor, distances do not matter."

Despite the popularity of plastic surgery in Russia, there are dangers about embarking on serious medical treatment in a country where controls over the ailing healthcare system have all but broken down. One of the reasons that Russian surgeons can perform operations cheaper than in the West is the absence of any patient rights to sue for damages.

The Russian legal system offers little redress. For instance, earlier this month a woman died after undergoing liposuction at a hospital in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk. Her family asked the local prosecutor to open criminal proceedings against the doctor responsible, but so far no action has been taken.

In the chaotic and often anarchic world of modern Russia, some patients resort to taking the law into their own hands. At least two surgeons have been murdered after operations on mafia bosses or their girlfriends went wrong. "Everyone would be better served if we could enforce a standard code of practice. Until then Russia will be able to offer some of the best, and the worst, plastic surgery in the world," Dr Sergei Katayev, director of the Kurare Medical Centre in Moscow, said.

YEVGENI KONDAKOV / MOSCOOP



The operating theatre in the Centre for Aesthetic Dermatology and Surgery situated at the rundown Academy of Sciences in Moscow

German protests plague nuclear train

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THOUSANDS of chanting protesters tried yesterday to block the slow progress of a trainload of radioactive nuclear waste which is winding its way through Germany for storage in a huge fortress-like plant.

Demonstrators manacled themselves to tracks and even cemented their legs to railway lines. Others followed the example of British motorway protesters by tunnelling under approach roads.

Water cannon swept across demonstrators as police — in the largest deployment since the Second World War — attempted to keep them away from the flat-bedded wagons.

The first victim of the convoy was a young policeman hit by a train. Detectives are investigating his death to determine whether it was an accident or whether the sabotage of demonstrators was partly to blame.

Last year the waste was taken to Gorleben storage centre in Lower Saxony. This year the waste is being carried from southern Germany to Ahaus in North Rhine-Westphalia. There, surrounded by barbed wire, it will cool down for 40 years while politicians decide whether it should be recycled — in Sellafield, Cumbria, or La Hague in northern France — or buried somewhere in Germany.

Ailing Yeltsin back at Kremlin desk

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A WEEK after taking to his bed with a respiratory infection, President Yeltsin returned to work at the Kremlin yesterday. But a summit meeting he was due to hold at Yekaterinburg in the Urals next week has been switched to Moscow.

Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential spokesman, said doctors had recommended that Mr Yeltsin should avoid long flights. The summit is the first of a series of regular meetings with President Chirac and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor.

The Russian leader was shown on television yesterday with Valentin Yumashev, his chief of staff, and Mr Yastrzhembsky. His press service said that they had discussed preparations for Thursday's talks.

Mr Yeltsin also spoke to Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, who was in Zagreb yesterday on the latest stage of his tour of the former Yugoslavia.

It was the first time the Russian President had been shown on television since falling ill. He remained for the entire period in his country residence at Gorky 9, outside Moscow. While his condition was never thought to be serious, its happening so soon after a similar indisposition in December served as a reminder that at 67 Mr Yeltsin is a far from healthy man, despite his frequent asssurances to the contrary.

In yeterday's brief footage, he seemed a little stiff and still sounded hoarse, but appeared cheerful and glad to be back at work. He spent three hours at the Kremlin in all, a spokesman said.



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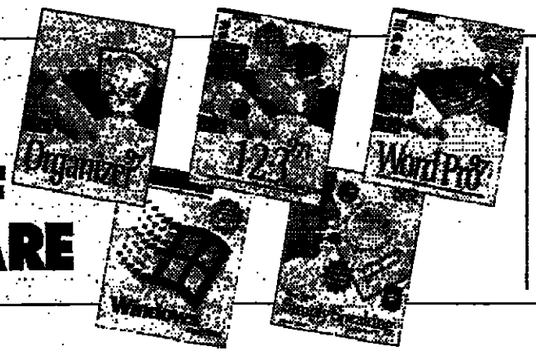
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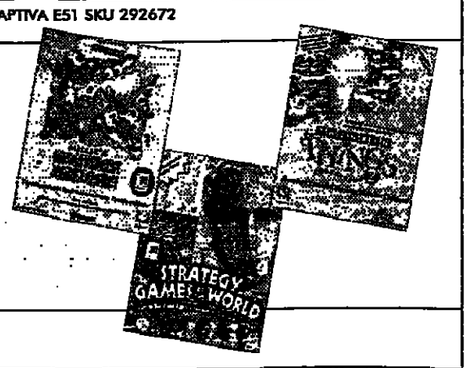


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Passive smoke suit for $6.5bn fails

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN A surprising victory for the American tobacco industry, a jury in Indiana has found cigarette manufacturers not liable in the death of a nurse whose family alleged she had been a victim of second-hand smoke in the workplace.

Relatives of Mildred Wiley, a daughter of missionaries who died of cancer in 1991, aged 56, had sought $6.5 billion (£3.9 billion) in punitive damages and more than $13 million in compensation.

Their lawyers alleged that the big tobacco companies, including Brown and Williamson, an American subsidiary of Britain's BAT Industries, the Tobacco Institute and the Council for Tobacco Research, had breached a duty to warn consumers about the risks of breathing second-hand smoke.

The companies argued during a six-week trial that secondary smoke does not cause lung cancer and Ms Wiley's disease could have been caused by other sources.

She had worked for 17 years at the Veterans' Hospital in Marion, Indiana, where witnesses said the level of smoking was such that walls had to be regularly cleaned to remove nicotine residue.

Enigma of a £25m move

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE Louvre is to give Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* a new exhibition space under a Japanese sponsorship deal believed to be worth £25 million that has rekindled the debate over whether to restore the world's most famous painting.

The museum's governing board was yesterday presented with the plan for a *Mona Lisa* gallery that would make the masterpiece more accessible to the thousands of visitors who see it every day. But some art experts fear the project may herald another attempt to clean it, possibly threatening the *Mona Lisa*'s enigmatic smile.

Negotiations have been conducted in secrecy, but the plan was revealed in a single sentence in the Louvre's newsletter last week, which noted: "Corporate sponsorship of the *Mona Lisa : the deal is almost* completed and will be submitted to the governing council on *March 20.*" *Museum sources* said that the plan envisaged using Fr250 million from a Japanese corporate sponsor.

At present visitors must negotiate crowds to glimpse the picture, which is protected by a tinted, bullet-proof vitrine which does nothing to improve visibility. The controversial restoration of the Sistine Chapel in Rome was carried out with Japanese sponsorship, and the sheer scale of the funding in the *Mona Lisa* deal may indicate a radical restoration project, according to Jacques Franck, a Leonardo expert who has campaigned successfully to prevent the portrait being cleaned in the past.

"That amount of money is extraordinary. You wouldn't spend £25 million to have a dirty picture. We don't know what they are planning. But if this is a preliminary move towards restoring the *Mona Lisa*, that should be opposed, unless we can be certain that the cleaning is totally safe — and I have no indication that this would be the case," M Franck said yesterday.

Over the centuries, discoloured varnish and grime have obscured the *Mona Lisa*'s features. But many experts believe that using solvents on the porous surface of the *painting could damage fragile* pigments, particularly the microscopically thin flesh tones.

If cleaning emerges as part of the deal, then the inscrutable smile of the *Mona Lisa* could itself be in danger.

M Franck has argued that the cracking of varnish has actually enhanced her expression by affecting "those areas of the anatomy which play a role in the formation of a smile, the lower eyelids, cheek muscles and left-hand corner of the mouth". He said: "Any attempt at restoration could have a radical effect on the smile."

The argument over whether or not to clean the picture is one of the oldest in art history. Degas, *the Impressionist*, fought to prevent the canvas being touched. But as early as 1625, a *visitor to the French* court observed that parts of the painting were "covered so badly with a certain varnish that it cannot be observed too well".



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Art experts fear the Mona Lisa may be radically restored with adverse effects

WORLD IN BRIEF

Clinton rethink on Paula Jones

Washington: President Clinton's lawyers drew back suddenly from targeting Paula Jones's sexual history after *leaks of their new controversial line* of attack and fears that it would turn public sympathy in Mrs Jones's favour (Bronwen Maddox writes). Until yesterday morning, *Robert Bennett was issuing warnings that* he would file evidence on Mrs Jones's sexual experience, the second time in nine months that he has threatened that line of attack and *then withdrawn it.*

Boy still trapped in well

Buenos Aires: Rescuers worked for a second day to save a five-year-old boy who fell into a 50ft shaft in northern Argentina. Cristián Quiroz was walking with his mother in San Nicolás, 140 miles north of Buenos Aires, when he fell down the 16in-wide shaft. Television carried hours of live coverage of the rescue attempt as hundreds of onlookers gathered around the abandoned water well. *(Reuters)*

Extra jail for Chaplin star

Los Angeles: A judge has tacked three more days on actor Robert Downey's jail term to make up for the time he was allowed out to finish two films. Downey, star of *Chaplin*, who was jailed for six months after breaking parole, was to have been freed a week tomorrow. He pleaded guilty after police stopped him in 1996 for speeding and found cocaine, heroin and a pistol in his truck. *(Reuters)*

Six die in path of twister

Gainesville, Georgia: At least six people were killed and more than 65 injured when an apparent tornado tore through a rural area of northeast Georgia, ripping apart homes and damaging farm buildings and a school. Five people, two of them children, died in mobile homes. The twister left a trail half a mile wide and ten miles long. *(AP)*

Hong Kong holds dissident

Hong Kong: Hong Kong immigration officials detained on Beijing's orders Wang Bingzhang, 50, a US-based Chinese dissident, a Hong Kong-based human rights group said. He was held as he entered Hong Kong from Macau with his wife, said Frank Lu of the Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China. *(Reuters)*

China plans to boldly go

Beijing: China is preparing for missions to the moon and Mars, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. Yuan Jiajun, vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Space Technology, was quoted as saying China will explore outer space in the 21st century. *(AP)*

Sinking rightwingers seize lifeline offered by Le Pen

BY BEN MACINTYRE

FRANCE'S mainstream conservative parties faced a paralysing crisis yesterday as local leaders won election to at least three regional council presidencies with the support of the National Front, handing the far-right party of Jean-Marie Le Pen a symbolic victory.

President Chirac, a Gaullist, Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Prime Minister, and the national leadership of the centre-right coalition all appealed to regional candidates not to break the taboo on alliances with the Front. Several renegade conservatives ignored those pleas when the Front offered its support.

The Left came out ahead overall in regional elections last Sunday, but many conservatives faced a stark choice between the political wilderness or succumbing to the temptation of using Front support to win or retain control of regional councils.

"You cannot govern this region with insults or by refusing to recognise reality," Jacques Blanc, of the centrist UDF group, said after winning re-election in the Languedoc-Roussillon region with the aid of the Front. Far-right councillors similarly supported conservative candidates in the Franche-Comté and Rhône-Alpes regions, while negotiations continued in other regions. As many as six of the 22 regional presidencies were likely to be won with National Front votes.

The Front won 15.5 per cent of council seats last Sunday, putting it in a position to play kingmaker in the election of regional presidents. "I am very pleased," a beaming M Le Pen declared, as evidence mounted of a growing willingness within the mainstream Right to put political survival above principle.

Four regions, including greater Paris, put off voting until Monday to allow the Centre-Right to consider the results of local cantonal polls held tomorrow.

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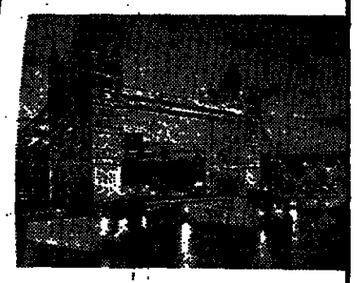
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HAND-HELD MOBILE PHONES AND DRIVING. IT'S A BAD CALL.

US hopes Castro will be hurt by relaxed embargo

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE White House, acting in the wake of the Pope's visit to Cuba in January, yesterday announced a package of measures aimed at expanding humanitarian relief to the island while bolstering the Catholic Church to erode support for President Castro.

President Clinton's decision to engage in a limited rapprochement with Havana sparked fierce criticism from conservative members of the Cuban-American community and influential Republicans in Congress who described the initiative as a "major mistake" that bowed to the Castro dictatorship.

In an interview with CNN before the announcement, Señor Castro described as "positive" the measures, which include a resumption of charter flights from the United States to Cuba and permission to allow Cuban-Americans to send an annual sum of up to $1,200 (£750) per family to relatives on the island.

However, later comments in Geneva by Roberto Robaina, the Cuban Foreign Minister, appeared to contradict Señor Castro. The minister described US attempts to ease sanctions as "crumbs". He said: "The blockade has to be lifted and not just eased."

Mr Clinton has also instructed the US Treasury and other agencies to simplify licensing procedures for exporting medicine and medical devices to Cuba.

By working through non-governmental relief organisations, including many operated by the Church, the US hopes to strengthen institutions that are outside Señor Castro's control and in the process foster a sympathetic environment for opposition political movements.

"The Pope's visit has created a different dynamic," said one official. "Castro is not going to change but what is happening here is that there is a desire of the Cuban people to expand the space that has been created between them and the Government. What we have to do is sideline Castro as much as possible."

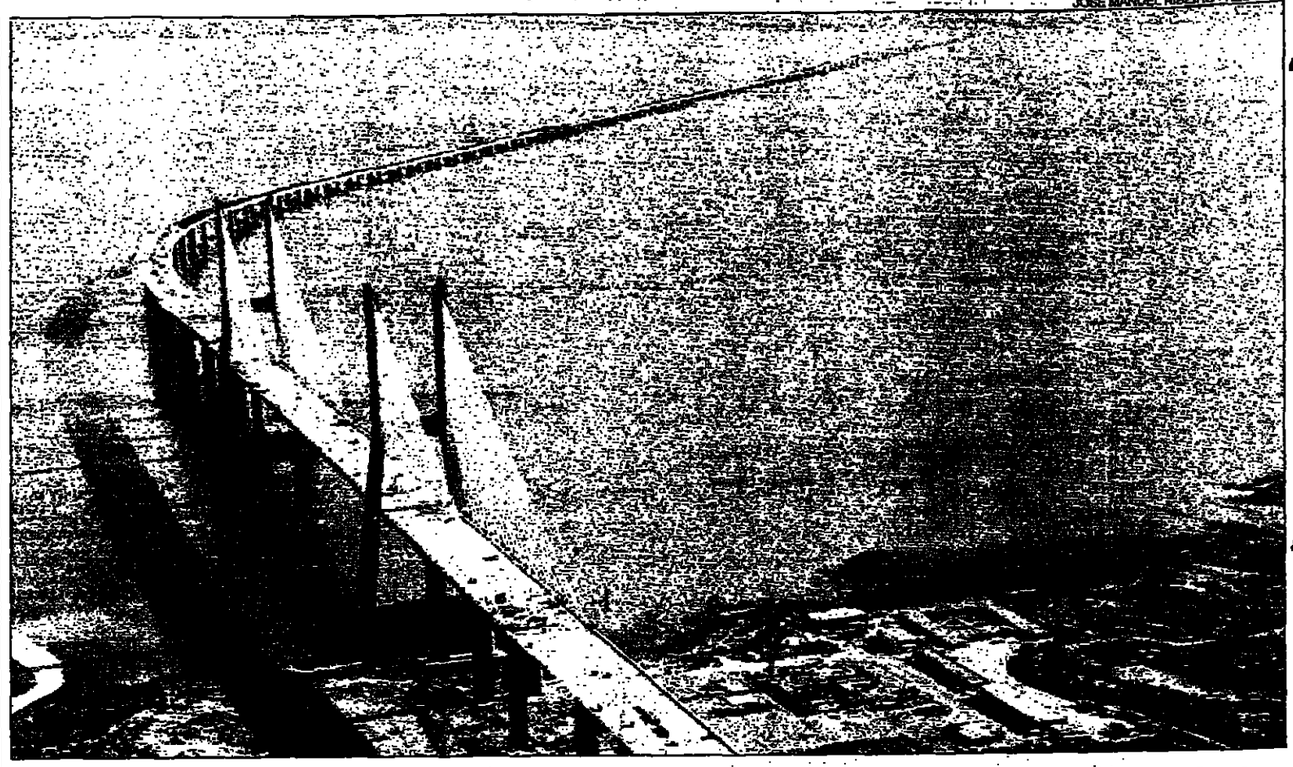
The decision marks the first relaxation in Washington's policy since 1996, when Cuban jet fighters shot down two small unarmed planes operated by Brothers to the Rescue, a Miami-based Cuban exile group, killing four crew members.

José Basulto, the group's leader, said the move was "a slap in the face" for the four victims and accused the Administration of guilt by association in failing to investigate the matter properly.

Among the strongest critics on Capitol Hill was Senator Jesse Helms, co-author of the Helms-Burton Act, which severely curtailed aid and business contacts with Cuba.

☐ **Players safe:** Four Cuban baseball players and a coach who defected by raft and were missing, feared dead, have turned up in the Dominican Republic, a baseball scout said yesterday. *(AFP)*

JOSÉ MANUEL RIBEIRO / REUTERS



An aerial view of the newly completed 11-mile Vasco da Gama Bridge across the Tagus river north of Lisbon. Europe's longest bridge gets an unorthodox start to its working life tomorrow when it plays host to 15,000 guests lunching at what is to enter the record books as the world's longest table (Alison Roberts writes).

The official inauguration of the bridge is not until March 29, but Proctor & Gamble has slipped in early to organise an event aimed at raising its profile in Portugal. It is laying on 40 lorries and 150 coaches to transport equipment and guests to and from the site, and footing the bill for the record-breaking meal. The main course is to be *feijoada*, a pork and bean stew that the chef, Michel da Costa, says he chose because it ranks among the top three Portuguese dishes. It is not only the quantities of ingredients involved — among them 1,050lb of onion, 2,900lb of beans, and 1,650lb of bay leaves — that are mind-boggling. "It means a three-mile-long table, 15,000 chairs and almost nine tons of food," the chef said. The first invitations went out to the workers involved in the £602 million project built by a British-French consortium — which at its peak numbered 3,300.

A table with a view for 15,000

Wine growers give El Niño a bouquet

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE disclosure earlier this week that six counterfeit bottles of Penfolds Grange Hermitage have been offered to a Melbourne wine auctioneer has overshadowed what should have been a celebration among Australian winemakers. Vineyards are on target for a record harvest with high-quality grapes.

The credit goes to El Niño, the weather phenomenon. After being blamed for most of the world's droughts, floods and famines for a year, it has enhanced this crop.

In the Hunter Valley, north of Sydney, the harvest was completed three weeks early. Conditions have been perfect — hot, dry and the occasional sprinkling of rain. Phil Ryan, general manager of McWilliams' Wines, says that it is the quickest period of wine-making in his memory.

Just down the road Brian McGuigan is equally ecstatic as he surveys his vineyards, saying: "We're looking for an excellent result in terms of total tonnage."

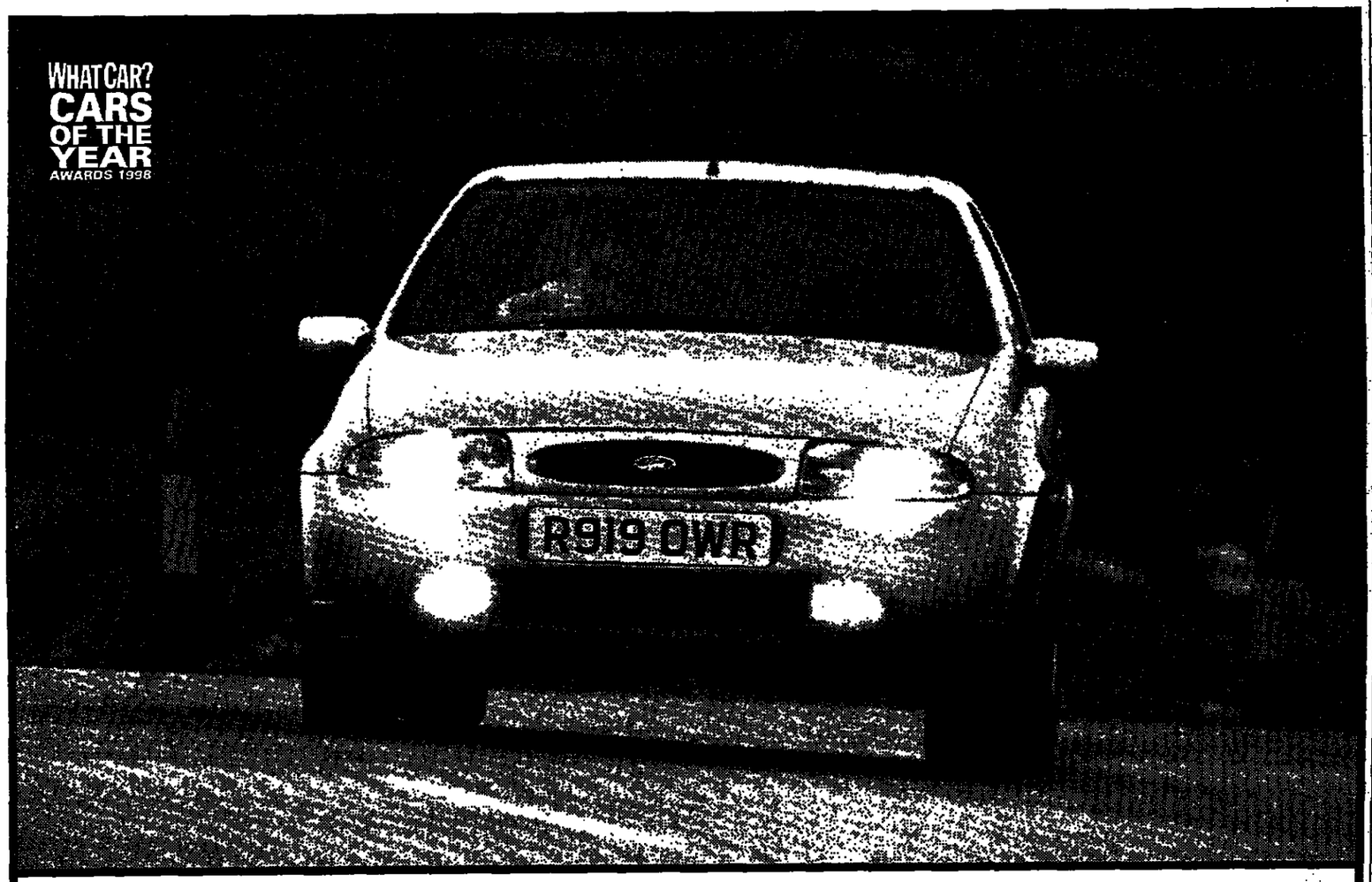
In Australia as a whole this year's grape crush is expected to exceed 900,000 tonnes, about 10 per cent up on last year and well on target for the million tonnes it is hoped to



harvest by 2000. Some, however, fear the bubble might be about to burst. John Obeiston, a Sydney wine merchant, thinks that some so-called premium reds might be overpriced, suggesting a general over-heating.

"We are also seeing a number of new wines coming on to the market with very little track record when it comes to how they'll age," he said. "I'd be very nervous about putting them away for a long time and hoping to get long-term gain."

Meanwhile, there is much debate over how badly the fake Grange scandal will tarnish the industry's reputation. In future those prepared to pay more than £250 a bottle may think twice.



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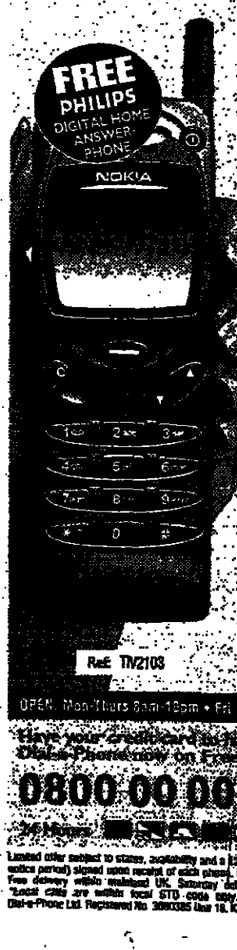
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FOR A LAND CRUISER SPECIAL TEST REPORT SEE GO ON PAGE 23 OF WEEKEND

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THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF AITKEN

The family that went from riches to ruin

Andrew Pierce traces the decline of a dynasty that once bestrode the worlds of politics and the media

THE prospect of Jonathan Aitken's imprisonment for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice has accelerated the decline and fall of one of Britain's most influential political and media dynasties. In three generations the House of Aitken has emerged from its poor roots in Canada, risen to own and run the most glamorous British newspaper empire of its time, and is now heading for ignominy.

Only three decades ago, in 1964, Lord Beaverbrook, the great-uncle of Jonathan Aitken, left a £12.5 million fortune, the ownership of the *Express* newspapers, and Cherkley Court, a 30-bedroom Grade II listed country home in Surrey. He was a close friend and confidant of Churchill, a wartime Cabinet minister, a ruthless and a hands-on newspaper magnate. But today the House of Aitken's glory days are over.

When William Maxwell Aitken came to Britain in 1910 from Canada, there was little money in his pockets. But he became, in quick order, an MP, a knight, a baronet, a lord, a Cabinet minister and a millionaire.

He had little time for inherited wealth, so when he died he left little to his relatives. As a young Etonian, Jonathan Aitken was summoned by his great-uncle. "You are a very bright boy," Beaverbrook said. "I am going to pay you the greatest compliment: I am not going to leave you a cent."

He believed that he had started a political and social dynasty that would rival the Kennedys. But his dream began to unravel long before Jonathan Aitken's memory lapse over the payment of a £1,000 bill in the Paris Ritz in 1993.

The present Lord Beaverbrook, the Ferrari-loving 3rd Baron, also called Max, maintained the political connections when he became Tory party treasurer in 1990. He was then one of the richest men in Britain with a fortune of more than £50 million. But two years later he was declared insolvent.

The strains on the House of Aitken first began to show in 1977 when the family lost control of the *Express* newspaper group. Jonathan, in seeking to live up to his great-uncle's expectations, sought to restore the family's fortune.

His political ambition was also in his genes. In the patriotic aftermath of the war, his pilot father was offered the safe Tory seat of Bury St Edmunds. When he died in 1964, he left £5,000 to Jonathan, who was just 12.

Aitken Jr went on to Christ Church, Oxford, where he gained an MA in history and law. Churchill's son, Randolph, had seen the political potential in Jonathan and arranged for him to be offered a seat when he was just 21, but it was declined. Fleet Street beckoned, and his parliamentary career did not begin until 1974 when he won the Kent seat of Thanet East.

It had been held up by an Old Bailey official secrets trial, at whic he was acquitted. The subject of the reports was illegal arms sales during the Biafran war.

Jonathan had been head of Middle East operations for the bank Slater Walker before entering Parliament. In 1975, he set up an investment bank, to be called Aitken Hume, with his cousin, Timothy. The cousins rescued the television station TV-am in 1984.

Jonathan joined TV-am as managing director, but was forced to step down because the Independent Broadcasting Authority objected to an MP running the company, and then left TV-am when it emerged Arab money had been the source of the rescue operation.

In November 1985, Jonathan engineered the removal of Tim from Aitken Hume.

The final act in the drama of the House of Aitken stemmed from the many contacts Jonathan cultivated during his business deals in the Middle East. Particularly valuable was his friendship with Said Ayas, a representative of the Saudi Royal Family, who was also arrested this week.

Jonathan's political ambitions were firmly blocked by Margaret Thatcher after he had an ill-judged fling with her daughter, Carol. His fortunes revived under John Major, and he became Minister for Defence Procurement in 1992. His contacts swung an additional £5 billion of orders for Britain. But he had been in the Cabinet barely a year when he resigned to clear his name of the media allegations of being dependent on Saudi money and procuring women for Arabs. He denied all the allegations.

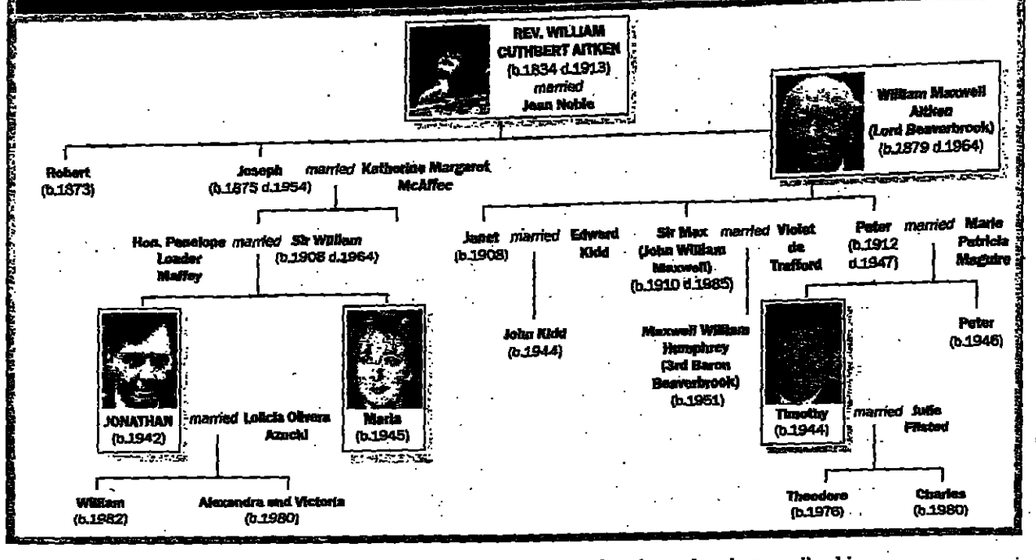
Disaster has since followed disaster, with the collapse of the libel case he brought against *The Guardian* and Granada's *World in Action*. He then became only the third person since the war to give up an honour conferred for life by the Queen: a privy councellorship.

He and his wife, a Serbian-born Buddhist, separated the day before the trial collapsed.

It is now only a matter of time before Mr Aitken appears in the dock. The first Lord Beaverbook, having read something lacklustre in his papers, would rasp: "Where is the drama?" There is plenty more to come in the Aitken family saga.

Letters, page 23

THE FAMILY TREE





Relatives have been warned to expect the worst

THE mother of Jonathan Aitken spoke yesterday for the first time about the strain on her family caused by "such a small mistake".

Lady Aitken, 86, disclosed that the former Cabinet minister had warned his family to expect the worst. "We have talked about prison. I have come to terms with it. I have to. It is just one of the possibilities.

"I have a deep, groaning feeling inside about how terrible it is going to be for Jonathan. At 86, it is hard to be shocked by anything any more, but this is a tragedy," she said.

Mr Aitken was arrested this week in connection with his High Court libel case, which collapsed after it was shown that he had lied on oath about his wife, Lolicia, settling a £1,000 bill at the Ritz in Paris.

He denied that the bill had been settled by Said Ayas, a close friend and an associate of the Saudi Royal Family. Mr Ayas was also arrested this week, as was Mr Aitken's daughter Victoria, 17. Mr Ayas is Victoria's godfather.

Lady Aitken, a magistrate, said that her son felt desperate about the involvement of his daughter. "It is the worst thing. It was the worst and stupidest mistake he has made. It is on his conscience because he is a devoted father who loves his children. They are his first concern," she said.

Victoria has a twin sister, Alexandra, and a brother, William, 15. They are close to their grandmother. "I am a port in the storm," she said.

Mr Aitken is likely to sell his £1 million-plus home in Lord North Street, Westminster, which was one of the most celebrated political salons of the Thatcher era. Lady Aitken lives in a nearby flat with a garden adjoining her son's. "It is possible I might have to move, too. We are not a rich family," she said.

Removal men arrived yesterday at the White House, the Aitken country home in Sandwich, Kent, which has been sold because of the £2 million legal bill for the libel case. "He is paying such a terrible price for such a small mistake, all over a silly hotel bill," Lady Aitken said.

"Jonathan was a wonderful child, who grew up into a brilliant man who has many friends. He has made one terrible mistake, which he will regret for the rest of his life."

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THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF AITKEN

VALERIE GROVE MEETS: MARIA AITKEN

A supporting role in tense family drama



Maria Aitken: sisterly duties kept her from her work this week with a prison theatre group

Maria Aitken, you might think, had quite enough on her plate this week. She had been due to fly from New York to Vancouver to perform her own play, *For God's Sake, Madam*, about Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. But just as she set off for Kennedy Airport, the call came to rally round her brother. Unhesitatingly, she dropped everything and flew to London.

So on Monday she was the good aunt, shepherding 17-year-old Victoria Aitken ("such a brave girl") to a London police station; on Tuesday she was at Lord North Street, central London, with her mother when Jonathan came home from his similar excursion. On Wednesday she was collecting her nephew William from Eton. And on Thursday, when she should have been centre stage at the University of British Columbia theatre, playing the spirited 18th century traveller and salonnière, she was helping Jonathan to move out of his house in Sandwich. He is rather hopeless, she says, at such domestic matters.

These sisterly duties stopped her from making another appearance, at Wandsworth Prison on Thursday morning, in the cause of an extraordinary theatre group very dear to her heart. For seven years Maria has been patron of Safe Ground, a project aimed at young truants and prison inmates. It was a measure of her commitment that this week, despite a shudder at the word "prison", Maria took time to garner interest in this laudable project. Talking about it, she said, was a welcome distraction.

At her south London house the door was opened by a tall, disconcertingly handsome man named Jonathan — Jonathan Cake, who was Ms Aitken's lodger before he cut a dash playing Mosley. He and her son Jack Davenport (adored by all 20-somethings as Miles of *This Life*) were having a laddish time noisily watching the Man United v Monaco match upstairs. So we sat at the kitchen table.

Wasn't it timely, Maria said, that there had been a conference on truancy this week? "If they're putting any funds into truancy I'd like to steer them towards my girls." Her girls are Antonia Rubinstein (daughter of Anthony, of the legal dynasty) and Polly Freeman (daughter of the actress Marjorie Lytes, and of Michael Freeman, who once stood for Labour against Mrs Thatcher in Finchley). The duo met at university. Maria first met Antonia when she was prop mistress at the Old Vic and was struck by her extraordinary intelligence: she became research assistant on Maria's BBC programme retracing the voyage of Lizzie Hessel, the first woman to go up the Amazon.

When Antonia and Polly formed Safe Ground they asked Maria to be on their board "because they knew I was empathetic towards people in prison. I always think, there but for the grace of God." But she had not fully understood their work until she went to HMP Woodhill, where the girls took Jaques's speech from *As You Like It* and in two weeks put together a dramatised *Seven Ages of Man*, with the prisoners' own invented



riffs on each age group. "And what happened was so impressive and moving. Their material comes organically from talking to schoolchildren and prisoners. They have professional standards of lighting and sets" (amazing what you can do with curved projection screens, a roll of newsprint, four lights and some gaffer tape) "and they're idealists, struggling along hand-to-mouth. Their dedication and commitment is extraordinary. I come away rejuvenated and feeling that this is what life in the theatre ought to be like."

Maria's role as one of three patrons (the others are John Mortimer and Joe Whitty, former governor of Feltham young offenders' institution) is to rouse interest in influential friends: she previously sent Sir Christopher Bland, BBC chairman, and Nick Kent of the Tricycle Theatre, to a prison performance and both were bowled over. On Thursday I went to HMP Wandsworth where inmates were released into the gym to watch Polly's play, *The Flock*, with music by Hedley Aylott. It's the story of three black 15-year-olds forming a rap group with the help of their music teacher. Its message: "if you want to make anything of your life you have to take reponsibility, be reliable, not play truant" making the connection that almost all criminal behaviour begins by truanting, is aimed at primary schools, but it went down fantastically well with the Wandsworth inmates, ex-truants all. The schoolchildren's performances, aided by three professionals, were terrific. Antonia's direction was taut. Polly's dialogue had total street cred and the music was spot on.

The discussion afterwards was fascinating. In the audience was Colin Tarrant, an actor from *The Bill* and a former teacher. He had been at one of the first comprehensives in the 1960s, when state schoolteachers were still full of drive and enthusiasm. And he spoke with feeling about how hard it is for teachers to instil "stickability" when they get no back-up from parents who seem incapable of imposing structure on their children's lives. Many of the prisoners were parents themselves: what did they think? (Treat kids as individuals, they said; give more money to schools — the old stuff).

Antonia, who really should be in charge of a prison herself, addressed the prisoners sternly. "You guys can improve matters. What involvement will you have with your children's schools when you get out of here?" What she would really like to say is, "You're costing the prison service £25,000 a year to be here. How do you justify it? What are you contributing? What have you learnt?"

In case the inmates had not yet got the point, the governor — whose own childhood in Northern Ireland had been pretty disturbed, he said, underlined it for them. "The choices I made were mine. We must all take responsibility to see that children have standards and discipline and make the right choices of personal integrity." The prisoners could have gone on talking all day, but they had to be banged up again.

Next week their tour of truant-ridden London schools continues. John Mortimer will host their performance on Friday at Wilditch Community Centre in Battersea. "You can work for years in the theatre," Maria Aitken says, "and end up suspecting that it's all a great exercise in self-indulgence. So to see how drama can have such a manifest benefit was fantastic for me. Theatre-going is such a dreary middle-class activity, but for prisoners who have never been exposed to live drama it has all its old, primitive power — there's probably a Greek word for it — and it's really gratifying to see its true therapeutic function."

Apart from the cloud hanging over her brother, Maria professes herself happier than she has ever been. Half the year she and her third husband, Patrick McGrath, live in an extremely lofty Manhattan loft. McGrath is enjoying global success with his novel *Asylum*, which he and Maria are now casting as a film. Together they have also bought the film rights to Iris Murdoch's *The Sea, the Sea*, to Jim Crace's *Quarantine*, and to two Ivy Compton-Burnett titles, *Mother and Son* and *More Women Than Men*. "This is my new life," Maria says, "as an adapter. It's my metier. I am riveted by the process."

This is a blow to those of us who regard her — with her swan-necked grace and faultless timing — as the quintessential drawing-room comedy actress: a perfect Elvira in *Blithe Spirit*, a ravishing Amanda in *Private Lives*; a tragic Florence Lancaster in *The Vortex*, the epitome of wit in *Hay Fever* and hilarious in Ayckbourn's *Bedroom Farce*.

She has also directed. But writing screenplays is something she finds she can do. "I don't think it's anything to do with having read English at Oxford. I have a deep sense of a play's form, and a film is a three-act structure: I've been on masses of courses in screenwriting in America and found I'd obeyed all the rules; the courses were just confirmatory. Which is thrilling. And it doesn't hurt to have an ace writer husband with whom to collaborate."

Jonathan Aitken once said to me, "I expect my obituaries will say, 'best remembered for having wine thrown over him by Anna Ford'." This is no longer so. But Maria and her mother have this week discovered the sweet uses of adversity. Lady Aitken, Pempe to her friends, is 88, a towering example of motherly loyalty through every family vicissitude, and looking after the grandchildren during the frequent absences of Jonathan's wife, Lolicia. Being, like her daughter, a natural wit, she has unearthed reserves of gallows humour: invited to lunch at the House of Lords by Lord Longford, befriender of the beleaguered, she said, "Dear Frank, I think he sees me as the new Myra Hindley." Meanwhile, Maria reflects that she has missed out on being close to her twin nieces and nephew. But now they need her. As she says: "Family life is transformed by disaster."

Breathless wonders kissed by real life

CONCERT

Boston Symphony Orchestra/ Seiji Ozawa
Festival Hall

Just about the last thing Mahler could have had in mind, when composing his monumental Third Symphony, is an orchestral showpiece. And yet, on one level, the work served that purpose admirably for the second concert of the Boston Symphony's British tour on Thursday. Of course it was far more than that, but there was no little joy to be had from witnessing one of the great orchestras of the world delivering one of the most intractable masterpieces of the century, and emerging triumphant.

In the massive, half-hour first movement alone, one could relish the glittering, sweet-toned string ensemble, the finely tuned winds, the high quality of solo and tutti brass playing (the taxing trombone solo was skilfully done) and the delicate control of the pianissimo taps on the bass drum.

It was Seiji Ozawa's achievement to conjure the sense of breathless wonder at this epic portrayal of nature. (Mahler once admonished his protégé Bruno Walter, as he gazed speechless at the magnificent mountain scenery at Steinbach: "You needn't stand staring at that — I've already composed it all.") What did not emerge so convincingly was the unleashing of nature's primeval forces.

Mahler's original designation for this movement was "Pan awakes", and despite the violent eruption saved for the final pages, the overall impression was not so much of nature red in tooth and claw as nature bathed in rosy, picture-postcard glow.

That is a more acceptable depiction for the sensual, languorous minuet that follows and the rustic Scherzo of a third movement, where once again the orchestra's solo and tutti work were impeccable.

Try as one might to imagine it, the posthorn solo, played (virtually flawlessly) by an offstage trumpeter, sounded less like a hazy evocation in a distant valley than, well, a posthorn solo played by an offstage trumpeter.

The mezzo-soprano Florence Quivar, however, brought a wonderfully rapt sense of contemplation to the opening words of Nietzsche's *Midnight Song*, the final consonants of "O Mensch!" lingering like a soft breeze rustling in the trees. The excellent boys of Westminster Cathedral Choir, together with the women of the London Symphony Chorus, sang like the angels they portrayed.

Ozawa's reading finally came into its own with his shaping of the gloriously celestial infinities of the closing Adagio.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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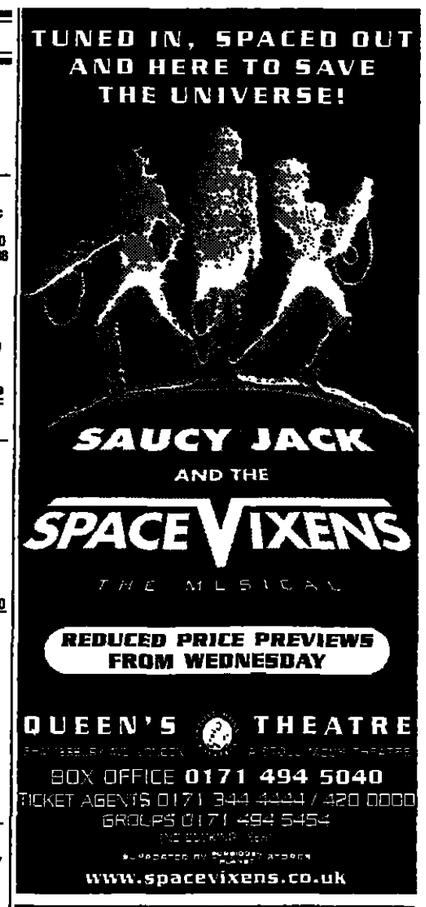
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هكذا من الأصل

Spring is here for clockwork

Libby Purves gets all wound up over the future of old technology

Rejoice! I have seen the future, and you wind it up with a handle. Spring is here in every sense, for clockwork has come back. A wedding has been arranged between mechanics and electronics, muscle and the microchip.

What is more, this clockwork revolution is British, and even the Pentagon is humbly beating a path to our door. We should be cheering, and waving flags, and commissioning a damn great key for the top of the Millennium Dome. That would be good: it would look like a huge toy beetle about to scuttle gleefully across the Thames.

I could not be more thrilled by the small piece of news, discreetly broken this week, that Trevor Baylis, the British inventor, and his colleagues at BayGen have been commissioned by the Pentagon to create clockwork landmine detectors, satellite global positioning systems (GPS), emergency beacons and other military hardware. Do not snigger, at the back there. This will save GIs from having to carry 23lb of batteries with them; the wind-up landmine detectors in particular, when sold on to aid agencies clearing mines in remote areas, will be a godsend.

Instead of lugging batteries and generators across mountainous terrain while the beleaguered locals look on and wait for Western magic to clear their fields, operators will be able to give the frustrated, but burly, farmers the dignity of helping to crank the rubber band up between sorties. It is a very human technology; it gives us back to ourselves.

Meanwhile in liferafts and on mountainsides, no adventurers need ever again be lost just because the batteries got wet. Wind up your GPS once to get your position; then again, to send out a coded electronic distress signal. Maybe a few precious moments of radio contact will be possible in return for yet more winding. Almost as good as the actual rescue will be the quietly satisfying fact that your own human body, after half a century of progressive disempowerment, has regained its place in the hierarchy of competence. We are all batteries now! We can turn our breakfast calories into electricity, and reduce our dependence on polluting, heavy, wasteful, vulnerable technology. We need not after all shrivel into the dome-headed weaklings of science fiction, ever more dependent on machines. Hooray!

I always get overexcited on this subject. I have owned a clockwork radio since they first went on the market; I first interviewed their originator, Trevor Baylis, years ago when everybody was still giggling at the very idea. Since then, with help from far-seeing South African industry, he has produced them commercially and in Third World countries — notably Africa — they are treasured. If you live far from mains power, and the purchase of batteries involves two days' driving across rock and bandit-haunted ravine, the ownership of a clockwork radio to hear the BBC World Service is a boon beyond measure and an obvious tool of democracy. Only fools giggle at the idea; they did on the *Today* programme, a bit, but perhaps the exuberant inventor was rash to admit that he powers a television set at home by hoisting a heavy bucket of earth up a tall tree every morning and letting it come slowly, powerfully down, generating voltage. If you must laugh let it be with joy, not derision.

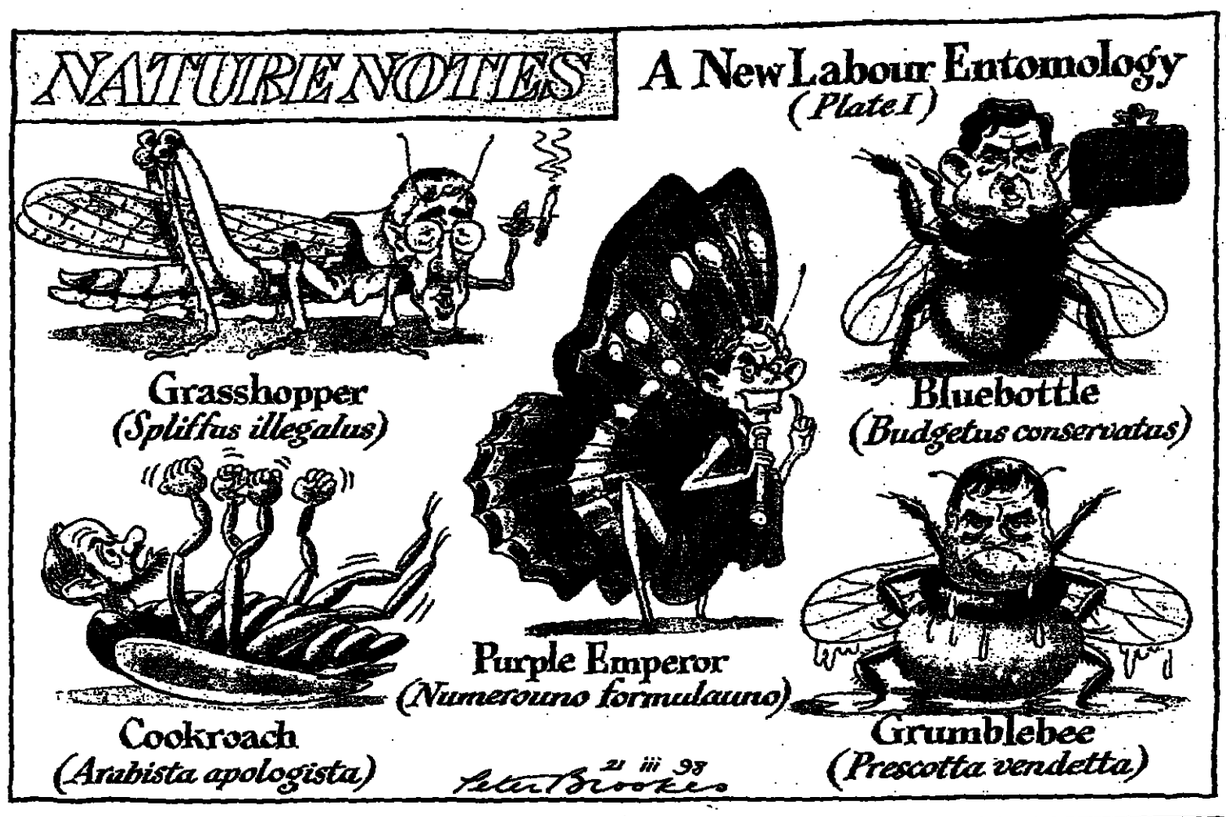
Even at home I find a clockwork radio immensely therapeutic. It asserts my status as an active listener. I crank like mad for ten seconds to listen for more than half an hour. When it runs out I make a decision: is this programme really worth winding for? No longer am I a supine, moronically receptive listener, that "inherited audience" that schedulers cite with deep implied contempt. I am a participant, not a receptacle. I personally wound up that Melvyn Bragg; I am supplying that Michael Buerk with electricity. If they don't deliver, I shall not wind them any more. So there.

We could turn our breakfast calories into electricity

This is not a backward-looking technology. I shall pass over the atticful of East European tin toys which I happen to collect (although it would do modern tots no harm to do a bit of winding instead of pushing buttons). Mr Baylis emphasises that the latest advances of clockwork are made possible only by the fact that modern equipment requires ever less power: electronics are being compressed to miniature size, and this 21st-century brilliance paradoxically marries well with a technology which began in the Middle Ages.

Moreover, there have been considerable technical problems overcome to make a spring deliver a steady current without causing interference. These new devices do not "wind down" like wobbly clockwork robots, they stop cleanly.

Of course clockwork power has its limits, batteries are a boon, and winding can be a nuisance. But there is something technically, philosophically and physically satisfying about the fact this derided technology, born in a British garden shed and now storming the Pentagon and benefiting the world, is founded on a simple manual action that anybody can do, free. Anyone who can't see that needs their handle cranking.



Rescue our fallen houses

Only mad dogs and Englishmen go in for such dilapidated wrecks

Simon Jenkins

Gladstone's philanthropy had him wandering nocturnal London "rescuing" fallen women. I do the same for fallen houses. They are less inclined to argue motive, though they can be far more trouble in the long run. I have a co-conspirator in Marcus Binney, architectural editor of *The Times* and publisher of Save's annual "buildings at risk" survey. The latest volume, now in its tenth year, appears this week.

The survey has become an "alternative" *Country Life* advertisement section. It sets out each year's crop of ruined castles, decaying mansions, idle stations and tumbledown cottages. Almost all are listed as historic. All are sobbing silently for love. They range from the highest in the land to the meanest, from Peckforton Castle in Cheshire to the desperate Platform 2 at Earlestown Station, "a single large room with exposed beams accessible only by footbridge".

In the catalogue are Castle Eden, Durham, late of the careless Coal Board. Here is the Rex Cinema in Hertfordshire, a cemetery chapel at Ince-in-Makerfield and the Board of Guardians Office in Walsall. Here are stations in Manchester, silos in Hull, chapels in Salford, an orthopaedic hospital in Northampton and — strictly for addicts — Wallsuches Bleach Works in Bolton, "one of the few surviving of its kind in Bolton", or surely anywhere.

Many years ago the joy of a London Sunday was to follow up Roy Brooks's property advertisements in *The Sunday Times* and *The Observer*. They were anti-adverts by a professed socialist, satirising other estate agents and making him good money. "Brothel in Pimlico", proclaimed a classic Brooks ad, "untouched by 20th century, reeks of damp or worse but still habitable judging by the bed of rags, fag ends and empty bottles in one corner ... ten rather unpleasant rooms with slimy backyard, £4,650 Freehold." That was in the late Sixties. The house would go for two hundred times that today.

Brooks's attachment was to the romance not the value of a house. His skill was to penetrate the trend-conscious defences of the upwardly mobile Sixties. His sellers (and buyers) were art dealers, photographers, models, writers. "I was a teenage literary agent," cried one vendor, "now overwhelmed by S*nd*y T*m*s hack and consequent population explosion". Brooks's cast included a bearded painter "who must sell Shepherd's Cottage, Hampstead Heath to move to Mevagissey, leaving still life of Cornflakes ... £6,875". He ridiculed rising areas, "Fash Barnes, few minutes West End by car (in middle of night) ... £6,275". Belgravia was then "Theatrical rather than camp, says management consultant, who must sell despite neighbours all film stars, models, chauffeurs". Another said: "Do not be misled by fash Chelsea exterior. All is not well inside:" or "Will no one take pity on nasty house adj. Regents Park Terrace ... friendly howl of hyena, £7,250?"

Brooks was the man for the Save list. He understood a fundamental truth about the British character, that new houses are for wimps. Old houses are like Harmon's cottage in *Our Mutual Friend*, coated with the dirt of history and eager for the imprint of a challenged mind. Conquering an old house is a way-station on the road to maturity. An Englishman's home is not his castle but his rotting lath-and-plaster, his Rentokil report, his dodgy survey, his subsidence claim. He cuts his teeth (and usually his marriage) on an old house. Those who have not duelled with RSJs at dawn, swapped insults with an apprentice plasterer, or been hurled across the room by "historic" Edwardian wiring were not with us at Agincourt. They cannot cheer at the name of Crispin. We few, we happy few, can strip our sleeves and show our scars, like Basil Fawlty after another spat with O'Reilly.

The Save list is for those a little mad in the head. The nearest I came to such madness was a brief flirtation on a sandy bluff near Dunwich in Suffolk. The love in question was a Jacobean rectory encased in early 19th-century brickwork. The roof was collapsing. A menagerie had taken over the drawing room fireplace. The orchard was overgrown. I fell for the idea of the place at first hearing, and drove down with a friend one evening, breaking through the fence along a sand track and camping inside for the night. The moon was rising over the North Sea.

The house was the isolated mansion of every imagination. It was home to Heathcliffes, Baskervilles, Ramsays and Deadlocks. In the upstairs rooms, Miss Havisham screamed, Mrs Danvers mourned and Tess wept. Across the lawn, the Go-Between dodged Lady Chatterley. In the woods, Jack and Ralph fought to lord it over the Flies. Out at sea, they were busily hunting the Snark. The house was not beautiful but infinitely desirable, a place where dreams could be mixed in a whirlpool of dust. No one with a soul could decently refuse bankruptcy and a lifetime of woe to such a house.

Somehow I resisted. I lashed myself to the mast, put wax in the helmsman's ears and sailed on by. I wonder what became of the place. Roy Brooks would have suggested it be "tarted up for fash hotelier with trophy barmaid and sold for twice the ridiculous asking price". Old houses have a right to survive, but they have no right to choose their ghosts. Dunwich probably needed the nouveau riche as badly as Brooks's Islington needed the nouveau quiche. Save's houses are in a different class. They are fit only for heroes. Some are heartbreaking. Gwrych Castle in Conwy is a stupendous pile, modelled in 1816 on an Edward I original. Its owner has vanished to America and a 12-year-old boy in Abegele, Mark Baker, visits it regularly to monitor its decline. He has valiantly written to Tony Blair and the Prince of Wales and pleads for "anyone with energy, heart and a deep pocket".

Sixteenth-century Apethorpe Hall in Northamptonshire is falling down in the ownership of an absentee Libyan. It is the most threatened historic house in England. Bartestree Convent in Herefordshire, by E. W. Pugin no less, is also empty and on the market, a classic of all that was wrong with Tory town and country planning. Consents were given for new houses in its rural orchards and grounds while the existing buildings were left to rot.

At least these buildings can summon to their colours the heroic generals of past wars. There is Kit Martin, who saved Gunton Hall in Norfolk, The Hazells in Bedfordshire and Dingley in Northamptonshire, all divided into smaller homes. This subdivision, carefully handled, yields occupancy rates not dissimilar from those of a century ago. Big houses need not die because they cannot afford servants and groundstaff. Occupation, not ownership, is what matters, families to breathe life into their walls. Another hero is Richard Broyd, saviour of Hartwell House, Middleton Hall and Bodysgallen, mansions converted into fine hotels.

The smaller cases demand a less carnivorous love. In Wolverley, Worcestershire, a charming cottage cut into sandstone rock is disintegrating. The swimming pool in Berwick needs a new owner, as do the gold thread works in Preston and the Methodist chapel at Wootton. Earsham Hall music room, by Soane no less, is available near the Norfolk Broads. Little St Mary's, Embleton, is a chapel lost in the undergrowth. Surely the local MP might help, one T. Blair of Sedgefield.

There are piggeries going for a song at Hebden Bridge, kennels at Harewood in Herefordshire and Broughty Ferry Station, Dundee, whose demolition is imminent. Can someone care for a Thirties Art Deco interior, languishing beneath the whitewash of Northwick Cinema in Worcester? There must be a latter-day Virginia Woolf, fit enough for the New High lighthouse at North Shields.

These buildings should never need help. Some are lovely but have fallen through a crack in the market. Others are the flotsam of economic history, desperate cases searching for a sugar daddy who will marry them for love and conceive a little cash. They need all the euphemisms of the trade: "challenging", "has possibilities", or as Brooks would put it, "try any offer for this heap of glorious rubbish". Until every one is occupied, not a square inch of countryside should be allowed to fall before John Prescott's bulldozer.

The survey is available from Save Britain's Heritage, 70-77 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6BP.

Chicago of the North

Mobsters stalk Manchester, says **Oliver Swanton**

Manchester is our finest Northern city. But like Chicago in the 1920s it is in the grip of gangsters. Large enough to spawn all the problems of any metropolis. Manchester is also small enough for some of these problems to be dangerously compressed.

The compact city centre is flooded every Saturday night by revellers from the sprawling suburbs who come in to enjoy a buzzing nightlife. These people create a huge illegal market for leisure drugs — for cannabis, Ecstasy and cocaine. And the gangs which cater for their habits compete fiercely for a slice of the lucrative trade. In a city the size of London there are, of course, several such gangs, but each has a territory large enough to sustain it. They seldom need to conflict. But in Manchester's small city centre they clash.

The problem reached a peak in the early 1980s when petty factional hostilities inflamed and ran out of control. An American-style gangsterism took root and the city earned its nickname: Gunchester. Since then violence has run riot. Attacks in the city centre have risen by 50 per cent in the past six months. Investors are shying away from the city. Nightclubs are being forced to close. To stay open means adopting a siege mentality. Owners must ask themselves which gang regards their venue as its territory, whether they are likely to turn up and if so, whether the bouncers can keep them out. Sometimes the bouncers themselves belong to gangs. If so, it is important to know which gang. An owner who gets it wrong is in deep water. The trouble has even spread on to the high street. Ram-raids and vicious robberies have forced designer stores to lock their doors.

The council leader, Richard Leese, has attacked police chiefs for failing to combat the "rampant lawlessness". In a letter leaked last week and reported in *The Times*, he told Chief Constable David Wilmot that officers seemed "either unable or unwilling" to tackle the problem.

Councillors announced plans to erect 120 closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras and develop a rogues gallery of those found guilty of violent assault and affray. There is just one hitch. Although the £330,000 needed for the first phase of the project has been found, there will be 18 cameras only covering part of the main shopping area. City-wide CCTV cover will take another decade. But Newcastle, Glasgow and Birmingham have had such cover for years.

The future for Manchester looks bleak. For several years numerous young teenagers have been embroiled in gang dealings, equipped with weapons and used as couriers by bosses who know that they themselves cannot easily deal since they are under police surveillance. Even if these teenagers are caught, they are beneath the age of criminal responsibility. But now the teenage thugs are growing up. After years of watching their peers getting away, quite literally, with murder they are left in no doubt that the way to earn a reputation is to pull a gun at the drop of a hat. The 1,000-round-a-minute Ingram Mac 10 machine pistol is the designer weapon of choice.

Observers say it is only a matter of time before the new breed finally takes over and rival factions return to all-out gang warfare. There is little police can do to curtail this. But if Manchester is to do the country proud in the 2002 Commonwealth Games, what it most needs right now is a policy of zero tolerance.

Diana debacle

EARL SPENCER has refused to co-operate with the BBC's "definitive" documentary about the life of his sister Diana, Princess of Wales, after it emerged that the "tribute" would seek to uncover new information about the Princess's romantic life. Suggestions from the production team that the earl, an independent-minded chap, was "on board" are rejected by all at Althorp. The two 75-minute programmes, presented by William Shawcross, will be transmitted by the Beeb this summer. Lord Spencer, not a great lover of the media in any case, became wary about *Looking for Diana* when it emerged that producers were rooting for "candid" footage.

They even contacted the rival ITN team behind *Diana — Her Life*, asking for unused footage: they knew that some well-known friends had had second thoughts about their contributions, and asked for some of their remarks to be cut. The BBC's toilers at Atlantic Productions had no such qualms, however. "We interviewed loads of friends, including Lord Palumbo,



Lord Puttnam and Lady Elsa Bowker," says an ITN source. "Several later changed their minds and asked if we could keep them out. When the BBC lot asked for the footage, we told them to take a running jump."



● *TONY BLAIR said his revolution would be complete when Labour came to love Peter Mandelson. That, some feared, might take a while. Not so, says the Minister in need of a Portfolio: "It's now just a matter of time."*

No show

SIR Paul McCartney has more taste than I thought. He has pulled out of a TV show with Des O'Connor (so below stairs). They were to do a tribute to Buddy Holly. A personality clash is blamed. Says an associate: "Paul is very choosy about who he will be seen with."

● *MICHAEL ATHERTON has never felt the need to take too much advice, least of all from media experts. So off he set to dinner with Dominic Lawson, Sunday Telegraph Editor and cricket obsessive, who is staying in the Caribbean on John Paul Getty's boat, Talitha G. "Dominic started telling him that he knew nothing about cricket," says my rum punch mixer. "He then proceeded to go through a list of things Mike might do." Atherton nodded and smiled. Sensible. He writes a column for the paper. I sincerely hope the advice was good.*

Polo match

ALEXANDRA TOLSTOY, (pictured right), daughter of Count Nikolai, is off on an adventure: to trace on horseback the legendary Silk Route used by Marco Polo. She will clip-clop along old mule tracks from China to Turkey, including a dodgy stretch in Iran. "Pops seems very relaxed, which is quite insulting," she says. The Count protests: "I am worried. I think she should ride with Cossacks as guards. Trouble is, they can be so handsome I don't trust my wife with them, let alone my daughter."



COUNTRY LIFE

THE TIMES DIARY

JASPER GERARD

● *EVEN the Brits, it transpires, feel miffed about Robin Cook's blundering visit to Jerusalem. The British School of Archaeology thought the Foreign Secretary might drop in, perhaps with a large cheque. The college, which unearthed many of the world's key archaeological sites, faces closure after having its British funds cut. Perhaps Blair, who might need some good news to announce after Cook's efforts, will be able to save it when he visits shortly.*

Leaping lords

BE BRACED for coronaries in the Lords. Labour peers are to be issued with bleepers after a recent run of lost votes in the Upper House. Labour whips are determined to get their small band of old-timers out of the bar and into the voting lobby, thus making them as "on-message" as their slavish MPs. Not all peers approve. "I have been a peer for 11 years and I have never had any difficulty deciding what to say," says the formidable Baroness Turner of Camden. Nor will it please Lord Boston of Faversham. "I don't believe their use would be looked upon kindly," he declared recently. As a soak confesses: "What if it reacted with my pacemaker?"

● *ST PATRICK'S Day at the Irish Embassy always produces a casualty. This year it was Ian McCartney, Trade Minister. He performed a spectacular tumble on the marble floor: "I should sue you lot. What do you polish the floors with?"*



TEA and regal sympathy poured forth for some needy recipients last week. In a secret and charming gesture, the Prince of Wales bused the chorus and orchestra of the Royal Opera House up to Sandringham for an afternoon of jollity. The Prince, patron of the harassed House, cleared his diary and told Mary Allen, the chief executive, that he thought "they needed a bit of cheering up at the moment". Happily the party set off. "Unfortunately, our driver was working from an old map," Ms Allen tells me. "Rather than ending up in Sandringham he took us to Huntingdon." As the coach party wandered around John Major's suburban homestead, the Prince paced the drive. With customary authority, Mary marched up the aisle of the bus and took charge. "I was raised on the Fens so was able to navigate with the help of a percussionist." They arrived — tired and two hours late — to find the Prince still waiting. "He was very good about it, extremely welcoming," she says. Did he cheer them up? "Oh yes, he was lovely." She, too, went down rather better than another recent Sandringham guest: Mr Mandelson. "He kept on talking about the Dome," I am told. "And was really rather aggressive."

MONEY TALKS

Hague can be both right and smart on monetary union

As Gordon Brown presided over an informal meeting of EU finance ministers to discuss terms for the launch of monetary union, William Hague outlined his opposition to the single currency in a speech to the Federation of Small Businesses. The Conservative leader demonstrated that there had been no shift in his position despite internal pressure to surrender territory. He asserted that he wanted to see how the euro would function in a variety of economic conditions. He stressed the need to observe the operation of the new currency after notes and coins commenced circulation in 2002. He said squarely that "we intend to oppose abolishing the pound at the next election".

Mr Hague's instincts on these issues are sound. He recognises that the drive for monetary union is one associated with old men in a hurry. It has been shaped by a certain interpretation of the Second World War and has chosen to ignore the collapse of the Cold War system. This is a case of politicians pursuing the last peace. As a result the euro will not bring the sweet harmony that is its stated objective. It has already divided the existing EU into "ins" and "outs". It will shortly divide the European continent into "cans" and "cannots". The whole exercise courts an economic calamity that could discredit all European co-operation. Tony Blair has nevertheless decided to support Helmut Kohl's idealism. Mr Hague, by contrast, is at one with Margaret Thatcher's realism.

The right stand for Mr Hague still requires some sophistication. There are two options that a rational Eurosceptic should consider. The first is to assert that the constitutional costs of monetary union are of such a scale that Britain should never embrace it, regardless of economic and strategic circumstances. This is an honourable stance, but more restrictive than the great British leaders of the past would have liked. Mr Hague has wisely stopped short of that. The second is to maintain that while the constitutional objections to EMU remain of central importance to Britain, there could conceivably be some circumstances at some point in the future in which either economic or strategic necessity called for entry. This would demand constant assessment of the euro over a five year timeframe.

The difficulty with determining now that EMU should be excluded for another decade or until the end of the next Parliament is that this falls uncomfortably between these logical polls. The possibility of joining has not been discarded as a matter of principle, but the period of time selected has no obvious economic merit. It is impossible to anticipate whether a complete business cycle will fall within a ten-year tenure. The inherent faults of the euro may or may not have manifested themselves by then. The ten-year formula manages the unusual and unfortunate trick of appearing both arbitrary and inflexible.

This is not to suggest that Mr Hague should revert to the miserable "wait and see" mantra. There will be elections for the European Parliament in 1999 and a general election two or three years later. On each occasion, the Conservatives will have to provide a clear answer — not a set of possibilities or a list of criteria — to the most important question of our age. These are, however, different elections to different institutions at different times. For the duration of the next European Parliament, all Conservative candidates should pledge themselves to oppose the advance of the euro. If that causes difficulties for Tory MEPs then that is their problem. No one is forcing them to seek re-election.

In the period after 1999 Mr Hague should develop the constitutional case which the Prime Minister has, rather recklessly, surrendered to him. He may also be able to elaborate on the economic and political dangers of the euro to the European continent. It should remain his intention to oppose monetary union. But he should leave himself the scope to shape his arguments as the transition arrangements for the single currency proceed. This will lead him to a manifesto that is solid in its intellectual foundations, relevant in its economic analysis and attractive in an election campaign.

ENGLAND FIGHTS BACK

But Livingstone makes an unlikely Prince Hal

The English backlash was bound to come, sooner or later. Of all the politicians likely to march under the banner of English nationalism, though, Ken Livingstone is not the most obvious. One might more easily expect Teresa Gorman to lead the charge. Yet yesterday Mr Livingstone used all the anti-Scottish resentment he could muster to criticise Gordon Brown, "a Scottish Chancellor", for not releasing enough public money to finance the Tube.

London put £6 billion into the economy each year, he said, far more than it received back from the Treasury. "Londoners are going to be very upset that they're going to pay through the nose in terms of higher fares and service cuts, perhaps for the next 20 years, because a Scottish Chancellor is refusing to allow Londoners to have the same level of public spending he expects as a right for his own constituents in Dunfermline East."

Mr Livingstone has been harrying Mr Brown all week. His comments on the Tube have to be seen in the context of his fight to become elected mayor of London. Yesterday he claimed that City institutions would happily pay higher business rates in return for better public transport. What the left-wing MP most wants is for the mayor to have the right to raise his own money for extra spending in the capital. But Mr Brown and the Treasury, ever-reluctant to cede tax-raising powers to other bodies, are staunchly against such a plan.

Mr Livingstone, however, has identified a rich political seam. Before devolution, there was some rough justice in the notion that the Scots should receive more public money as a sop for their lack of autonomy. Now that they are to have self-government, however, the inequity between their funding and the rest of the United Kingdom looks ever more anomalous. Latest figures show the Government spending £2,670 a head north of the border, 32 per cent more than the £2,020 the average English resident wins.

Local assemblies in England are likely to stir up resentment over this difference. Before Mr Livingstone made his provocative remarks, the same point had been made by campaigners for a North of England assembly. When Northumbrians compare their class sizes and hospital waiting lists with those of the Borders, they cry foul. And now they have the endorsement of the Treasury Select Committee, which recommended in December that the so-called Barnett formula for dividing up UK spending should be reviewed. Even Lord Barnett himself agreed.

Mr Brown is desperate not to reopen the question of funding. He knows that such a move would lead to a cut in the Scottish allocation, to the delight of the Scottish Nationalists. Labour is having a far harder time in Scotland, not just because Scots are uneasy with new Labour, but also because the existence of the SNP ensures vocal and public criticism from the Left of the Government's policies.

So far there is no English nationalist party. But it is intriguing that criticism has begun to grow from the Left of the Labour Party. No longer is this an argument between Labour and the Tories, which Labour was bound to win. It is an issue between England and Scotland, which can only be resolved through an equitable reallocation of public money.

DUTY TO SPEND

How a little perk became a large vested interest



The 24-hour stoppage by French dockers, ferry workers and duty-free shop staff was cheered on even by the motorists stranded around Calais. For they knew that the strike was part of a last-ditch effort to stop European Union governments enforcing one of the most unpopular decisions ever to come from Brussels: the abolition of duty-free shopping.

Under present plans, the emporiums in airports and on cross-Channel ferries ringing up profits faster than the January sales will next year no longer be able to claim tax-free status. Unions claim that about 140,000 jobs across Europe will disappear; airports that now look more like shopping malls than departure lounges will lose a source of cash so large that it makes them virtually self-supporting; and travellers will be deprived of the one invaluable excuse to splash out on cameras, cognacs and cigarettes that justifies the spending of far more than they would ever contemplate paying on a normal day's shopping at home.

Duty-free is the legitimate booty of international travel. What was once a perk spotted by the old ferries as a loophole in the law has become a huge international business. Building on postwar austerity when nylons, perfume and silk scarves were still highly taxed luxuries, the purser's stores have become floating supermarkets. Crossing the Channel now costs a fortune: not because of high ticket prices but because the credit card balance plunges into debt. The journey itself is nowadays often not even necessary: the shoppers' sole aim is to fill their baskets with whisky on the way out and their bellies with beer on the next boat back.

The campaign to keep duty-free has been joined by powerful interests. The ferry companies' very survival depends on it: without this subsidy, their profits would long ago have vanished down the Channel Tunnel. And it is not only in Britain, France and Belgium that big money is at risk: in Germany the ships to Heligoland used to sell cheap butter in the Fifties; and these "buttership" now cruise offshore selling virtually every consumer product although the market for butter has long disappeared.

Travellers close their eyes to one obvious point: that "duty-free" items in many capitals are far more expensive than on the high street. Within the EU they are not even duty free: VAT is fully chargeable on everything over £75 and is simply paid, on behalf of the traveller, by the shop or airport licensing authority instead of a normal discount. And for cigarettes and liquor, the traveller is limited by quantity.No matter. Governments will abolish duty-free at their peril. And if it goes, how will any airline persuade travellers to arrive at the airport in good time?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Challenge to EU to feed the world

From Professor G. H. Peters

Sir, The signatories of the letter of March 16 who wish to highlight the damage caused by the common agricultural policy should think again. Not once do they mention food production. The world as a whole still has a growing population; it will change from 5.3 billion in 1993 to around 7.7 billion in 2020, or 45 per cent. Dealing with this increase will be an enormous challenge, not all of which can be borne by the agricultural resources of the developing world.

Already there is a backlog of hunger, affecting about 800 million people, which has been exacerbated by extremely high world food prices, partly caused by the reduction of stocks in Europe and the United States where agricultural policies have been modified in the direction favoured by your correspondents.

As we re-focus the CAP under the EU plans announced yesterday (report and leading article, March 19) an answer is needed to a key question. What role is EU food production to play in feeding the world in the next quarter century? That must be settled before we consider laudable, but less urgent, needs.

Yours sincerely,
G. H. PETERS
(Research Professor in Agricultural Economics),
University of Oxford,
Queen Elizabeth House,
International Development Centre,
21 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA.
March 19.

Prison violence

From Mrs Mary Blackburn

Sir, As you report today, the allegations of assault and abuse by officers on inmates in HMP Wormwood Scrubs were recorded in the Board of Visitors annual report for 1997, submitted at the end of February. All boards are required to report to the Home Secretary annually. Unfortunately, history has shown that although many problems are initially highlighted in this way, ministers and the Prison Service all too often do not take action until the problem has reached crisis level.

Boards of visitors are volunteers appointed by the Home Secretary to monitor prisons and uphold the principles of fairness and humanity in the treatment of prisoners while giving full weight to the maintenance of discipline and the interests and concerns of staff.

I hope that in future the Home Office and the Prison Service will take more immediate notice of our annual reports and the matters of concern contained therein.

Yours faithfully,
MARY BLACKBURN
(Chairman),
National Advisory Council of Boards of Visitors for England and Wales,
Horseferry House,
Dean Ryle Street, SW1P 2AW.
March 20.

Aitken defence

From Lord Pearson of Rannoch

Sir, What a pity that Matthew Parris does not want to "bore [us] with the details" behind his shoddy attack on Jonathan Aitken ("How did he deceive me?", March 13). His paraphrase of Aitken's case is breathtaking:

Suffice to say that Jonathan had sued *The Guardian* and Granada Television for libel on six counts. The first to be tested seemed to go his way, but his case fell apart when lies he had told were exposed on the second.

No one could guess from this that "the first to be tested" was the allegation that Aitken had improperly dealt in arms in the Middle East, which was by far the most serious made against him. This did not merely "seem to go his way"; the defendants offered no defence."

The defendants also withdrew the most serious of their pimping allegations, leaving only the assertions of a dismissed couple. It is true that Aitken did not repeat those allegations in his letter to Parris, which the latter finds so deceitful, but Parris's draft sentence, about which Aitken rightly complained, rolled all these matters into one, thus:

We do not know if Aitken pimped for Arabs or dealt illegally in arms, because the matters were not tested in court before the case fell.

Jonathan Aitken has enough troubles without being unfairly kicked when he is down.

Yours faithfully,
PEARSON of RANNOCH,
House of Lords.
March 16.

Ringing complaint

From Mr M. J. Godfree

Sir, I received an unsolicited phone call from a double-glazing salesman the other evening (letters, March 9, 17, 19).

After keeping him talking for five minutes, itself a new personal best, I was accused of wasting his time.

Hopefully I have now been blacklisted.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. GODFREE,
26 Rangemore Close,
Mickleover, Derby DE3 5JU.
m.godfree@x400.icl.co.uk
March 19.

Arts dependence on state subsidies

From Mr David Sawers

Sir, John Tusa ("Why I'm worried about Tony", Arts, March 11) seems not to realise that the arts need not and should not depend on the Prime Minister's whim. Like most people running the arts in Britain, he appears to believe that the arts cannot pay and ought to be supported by the State.

This flies in the face of the historical evidence, which shows that the performing arts in Britain flourished for the last three centuries on the basis of popular support. It is only in the last 30 years that state subsidies have come to form a large and growing proportion of their income. The cries of crisis that have been heard in the last few years arose because this growth ceased.

The tragedy of the arts in Britain, in my view, is that they are now managed by people like John Tusa, who turn first to the State for support. When that support is lacking they cry woe instead of asking how they can restore their traditional reliance on the public. They may have to cut costs and they may have to overcome their aversion to "populist" programmes, but higher incomes and better education have made their potential audience far larger than it has ever been: the performing arts should and can attract it.

Artistic freedom and artistic health are not compatible with dependence on the State. Managers should realise that reliance on the public would give them freedom from the whims of ministers and bureaucrats, and provides no less predictable a source of finance. They should stop worrying about Tony, and get on with their jobs.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SAWERS,
Crosby, 10 Seaview Avenue,
Angmering-on-Sea,
East Preston, West Sussex BN16 1PP.
March 12.

From Mr Geoffrey T. R. Holliman

Sir, John Tusa is right, our heritage is extremely important. And, if Tony Blair doesn't think so, this certainly does not apply to our 23 million overseas visitors.

According to a 1997 report on tourism, our foreign visitors come here in search of our heritage attractions, particularly those in London. They account for 20 per cent of all visits to UK attractions but 38 per cent of all visits to historic properties.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY HOLLIMAN
(Managing Director),
Arrowhead Marketing & Communications Ltd,
28 Queen Street,
Helensburgh G84 9QL.
geoffrey.holliman@lineone.net
March 12.

From Professor George Benjamin

Sir, The proposed abandonment of the visionary and essential plan to renovate London's South Bank Centre, where the creative output has been admired by the civilised world over so many years, beggars belief.

After reading John Tusa's perspicacious article, especially his conclusion that, "We can expect little sympathy, minimal understanding, and feeble support for the financial crisis in which the performing arts now find themselves", the decision strikes me as yet another example of the philistine approach to culture at the very top of our Government.

Can we expect nothing but populism for the foreseeable future?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE BENJAMIN
(Prince Consort Professor of Composition),
Royal College of Music,
Prince Consort Road, SW7 2BS.
March 12.

From Mr Philip Sutcliffe

Sir, I'm worried about John Tusa — and the rest of the arts lobby luvvies. They seem not to understand that subsidising elitist art forms is not a sensible way to spend limited tax resources. There are quite enough challenges in education, health and social services.

It is, of course, because "the arts" are elitist that they need taxpayer subsidies in the first place. If they were not, they would be able to generate sufficient revenue to cover their costs.

Yours etc,
P. SUTCLIFFE,
33a Woodland Gardens,
Muswell Hill, N10 3UE.
March 11.

Sentences for murder

From Professor Paul Rock

Sir, The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, has proposed an end both to the statutory life sentence for murder and the Home Secretary's right to determine the timing of the release of prisoners so sentenced (report, later editions, March 14).

His argument, at the Police Staff College, Bramshill, was that murders are very unlike one another: some are marked by a degree of intentionality and scale which is not to be found in the commonplace domestic or emotional killing, and it is not right to treat them as if they were all the same.

In putting that case he is on all fours with generations of penal reformers and criminologists. They have described the typical English murder as an infrequent occurrence, in which one violent young man kills someone very similar to himself in public, or a man kills his wife or partner in private after a long history of acrimony.

Before the political debate develops much further, it is important to recall that the families and friends of murder victims tend not to share the dominant view that the gravity of much homicide has been exaggerated; to the contrary.

Such a death is typically sudden, shocking, violent and willed, and it can leave those closely affected in a state of traumatic bereavement for years. They will be sensitive to every slight, feeling that they have been belittled and excluded from deliberations about a loss that is not treated as properly their concern at all.

Inter alia, what many families want is greater transparency and certainty in sentencing, and in this they are in accord with Lord Bingham. But they also want what they call "respect".

What is said and written about homicide counts, and careless talk about some deaths as relatively unimportant can have an unnecessary and deeply wounding impact on an already distressed group of people.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL ROCK,
Department of Sociology,
The London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2A 2AE.
March 14.

Cook in Israel

From Mr R. R. Zeff

Sir, Had Madeleine Albright publicly hugged and kissed Gerry Adams during his recent trip to America, Robin Cook would, quite rightly, have been apoplectic with rage. Yet he seems unable to understand the distress his embrace of Yassir Arafat caused to even the most moderate Israeli public opinion (letters, March 19 and 20).

Similarly, his failure to pay a visit to the Holocaust memorial at Yad Vashem demonstrates that the double standard of the Foreign Office where Israel is concerned is clearly alive and well.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ZEFF,
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1Y 5EW.
rrz@aol.com
March 19.

Cleaning up London

From Mr Jonathan Thompson

Sir, The solution to Mr Alistair McConnachie's problem of sex adverts in telephone boxes (letter, March 19) could be to encourage visits by French teenagers. I once saw a crocodile of them pass a particularly well-infested box. Each went in and took away one of these small cards, until the box was empty.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN THOMPSON,
Egerton Gardens Mews, SW3 2EH.
March 19.

Weekend Money letters, page 52

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Time difference

From Mrs F. A. Greig

Sir, Richard Branson suggests (letter, March 13) that the Government should, during our presidency of the EU, "sort out the time difference" between Britain and Europe. However, in addition to the UK, Ireland and Portugal are also in the universal time co-ordinated -0 time zone (GMT), while Greece and Finland are on East European time (UTC +2).

Five EU countries of the 15 are therefore in a different time zone from the majority. The number may well increase if more East European countries are admitted as members.

This may be a quibble but is a small example of the many issues of greater and less importance on which we are constantly informed that the UK is the only member out of step with the "rest of the community".

Those of us who have lived for any time in other European countries know that many of these statements are simply not true. All countries are individual.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES GREIG,
West Manor Lodge,
Walberton Park, Walberton,
Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0PJ.
March 14.

Gender bending

From Rear-Admiral J. A. Bell (retd)

Sir, I believe that all words in French (letters, March 14) ending in "ance" and "ence" are feminine, except one: le silence. No comment.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BELL,
Farthingdown House,
Holywell Lake,
Wellington, Somerset TA21 0EH.
March 14.

Wartime gallantry of Indian soldiers

From Mr John Colvin

Sir, Indian soldiers of the Second World War have been lovingly commemorated — in Slim's *Defeat into Victory*, Allen's *The Longest Day*, in a hundred regimental histories, and by the master himself, John Masters. But, as Miss Kusoom Vadgama says (letter, March 14), not enough — at least until this museum can provide a permanent gallery for these, our old friends, to supplement the Gurkha Museum at Winchester and the exhibition at the Imphal Barracks, York.

John Masters wrote about the Indian divisions which sliced through Burma before the 1945 monsoon, faster than von Rundstedt through France in 1940:

In its towering, rising dust cloud . . . twenty races, a dozen religions, a score of languages passed in those trucks and tanks . . . this was the old Indian Army going down to the attack, for the last time in history, exactly two hundred and fifty years after the Honourable East India Company had enlisted its first ten sepoys on the Coromandel coast.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
your obedient servant,
JOHN COLVIN
(Museum associate and author of *Not Ordinary Men, The Battle of Kohima*, Leo Cooper, 1994),
The British Empire and Commonwealth Museum,
Clock Tower Yard,
Temple Meads, Bristol BS1 6QH.

From Mr Patrick Bradley

Sir, Miss Vadgama is certainly right that the enormous contribution made by the Indian Army in two world wars has never received popular acknowledgement. However, I would dispute her conclusion that their efforts were solely dedicated to the "mother country" in the last war, given that India herself was threatened by invasion.

It is unlikely that the Japanese would have granted independence to India had their intended invasion plans succeeded. In this respect, British and Indian soldiers fought together for the freedom of India, so perhaps part of the debt was repaid.

Yours faithfully,
J. PATRICK BRADLEY,
67 The Vineyard,
Richmond, Surrey TW10 6AS.
March 16.

Playing it straight

From Major F. N. L. Chapman

Sir, The recent West Indies Test match will surely be remembered for the outstanding partnership of Thorpe and Ramprakash.

It should also be remembered for the professionalism of the lady commentator who, avoiding all waffle about the gift of a large pizza, a night out at a party with old friends, flying kites and seagulls, limited herself to relating simply and enthusiastically the riveting cricket before her, never forgetting to mention the score at the end of each over — a great comfort to those who have just turned on their radio.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK L. CHAPMAN,
The Old Surgery,
Gloucester Street, Painswick,
Gloucestershire GL6 6QU.
March 16.

Taking a bow

From Mr R. V. Kentsley

Sir, Mr James Joss (letter, March 12) asked if the "unseemly practice" of having to curtsy or bow to the royal box at Wimbledon should be discontinued.

I wrote to the Duchess of Kent on February 25, saying it was not only degrading for British players, but it was an insult to expect foreign players to bow and curtsy.

The reply I received was:-

For your information. The Duke and Duchess of Kent do not lay down the rule that the tennis players should bow and curtsy during the tournament. The players do this through choice and many take great pleasure in doing so.

Perhaps you should ask the tennis players if they do take great pleasure in this archaic practice.

Yours faithfully,
R. V. KENTSLEY,
21 Heywood Close,
Hartland,
Devon EX39 6HS.
March 15.

House names

From Mrs Margaret Akmakjian Pitz

Sir, Recent letters (March 4, 11, 14) concerning catchy and unusual names for houses remind me of my favourite for a boat: the *Never-Again II*.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET AKMAKJIAN PITZ,
Glanrhydw Lodge,
Cloigyn, Pontantwn, Cydwelli,
Carmarthenshire SA17 5ND.
March 19.

From Mr R. H. C. Robins

Sir, A solicitor in Penzance resides at "The Writs".

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT H. C. ROBINS,
Oak Tree House,
Perran-ar-Worthal, Truro TR3 7QL.
March 19.

هكذا من الأصل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 20: The Queen arrived at Penrith Station this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cumbria (Mr James Cropper).

Her Majesty drove to Oasis Lakeland Forest Village and was received by the Chairman of the Rank Group (Sir Denys Henderson), before touring the site.

The Queen, Patron, Youth Hostels Association (England and Wales), later visited Derwentwater Youth Hostel and was received by the Hostel Managers (Mr David Piercy and Mrs Kathleen Morris).

Her Majesty toured the Hostel, meeting visitors and staff.

The Queen this afternoon visited Keswick School and was received by the Chairman of Governors (Mr Michael Pye), the Headmaster (Mr Michael Chapman) and the Mayor of Allerdale (Councillor Mrs Maureen Rourke).

Her Majesty toured the School and afterwards joined local representatives and members of the School at lunch.

The Queen later visited UCB Films and was received by the Chairman (Baron Jacobs) and Mr William Lowther (Managing Director).

Her Majesty watched the production process and met apprentices, graduates and pupils from Nelson Tomlinson Secondary School, before opening the new Sidex II Plant.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the United Kingdom Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, United States of America.

His Royal Highness later departed New York for the Bahamas.

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 20: The Princess Royal, Patron, the Basic Skills Agency, this afternoon presented the Basic Skills Agency Quality Mark to Gloucester College of Arts and Technology, Brunswick Campus, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, and opened the Learning Centre.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Colonel Richard Coxwell-Rogers (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire).

The Princess Royal, Honorary Air Commodore, Royal Air Force Lyneham, later received Group Captain Christopher Morris upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer and Group Captain Geoffrey Bullen upon assuming the appointment.

Royal engagements

TODAY:
The Duke of York, as Colonel-in-Chief, will visit the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, the Staffordshire Regiment (the Prince of Wales's) at the Catterick Army Field Training Centre, North Yorkshire, at 11.00.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, London Suzuki Group, will attend the 25th anniversary concert, Central Hall, Westminster, at 2.55.

TOMORROW:
The Princess Royal, as patron, Scottish Rugby Union, will attend the Scotland v England international match at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh, at 2.30.

Concert

Royal Over-Seas League
A concert was held at Over-Seas House last night to select the winner of the singers' section of the league's annual music competition. Guests were welcomed by the adjudicators and Mr Roderick Lakin, director of cultural affairs.

Martindale Sidwell

A Thanksgiving Evensong for Martindale Sidwell will be held at St Clement Danes, Strand on Saturday, April 25, at 3.00pm.

Robin Viney

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Johnathan Robin Durell Viney will be held at St Helen's Church, Abingdon, on Friday, April 3, 1998, at 4pm.

Luncheon

Consular Corps of London
Mr John Monks, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, was the guest of honour and speaker at the monthly luncheon of the Consular Corps of London held yesterday at the Hyatt Carlton Tower hotel. Mr Lawrence Landau, president of the corps, was in the chair.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Lord Boston of Faversham, QC, 68; Mr Peter Brook, theatrical producer, 73; Dr C.L. Brundin, former President, Templeton College, Oxford, 67; Mr Brian Clough, former football manager, 62; Miss Ann Clwyd, MP, 61; Mr Timothy Dalton, actor, 52; Mr Ieuan Evans, rugby player, 34; Mr Michael Foreman, writer and illustrator, 60; Mrs Llin Golding, MP, 65; Sir John Hall, former chairman, Cameron Hall Developments, 65; Mr Roger Hammond, actor, 62; Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, MP, 49; Mr Michael Heseltine, CH, MP, 65; Mr Antony Hopkins, composer and conductor, 77; Mr Frederic Horne, former Chief Taxing Master, Supreme Court, 81; Miss Ann Mackay, soprano, 42; Sir Peter Main, former chairman, The Boots Company, 73; the Earl of Munster, 72; Baroness Nicol, 75; Lord Oaksey, 69; Sir John Palmer, former President, Law Society, 78; Professor J.D. Pickard, consultant neurosurgeon, 52; Sir Brian Shaw, chairman, Port of London Authority, 65; Viscount Soulbury, 83; the Earl of Swinton, 61; Mr Stuart Westley, Master, Haileybury College, 51.

TOMORROW: Lord Alport, 86; Miss Laraine Ashton, fashion models agent, 52; Mr George Benson, singer and guitarist, 55; Viscount Bolingbroke, 71; Mrs Betty Callaway, ice-skating trainer, 70; Miss Sheila Cameron, QC, Vicar-General of the Province of Canterbury, 64; Mr Philip Ely, former President, Law Society, 62; Mr Brian Hanrahan, broadcaster, 49; Mr D.C. Ingman, former chairman, British Waterways Board, 70; the Very Rev Lawrence Jackson, Provost Emeritus of Blackburn, 72; Professor Harry Kay, former Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, 79; Lord Lloyd-Webber, 50; M Marcel Marceau, mime artist, 75; Mr R.P. Mardling, Principal, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield, 54; Mr Alan Opie, baritone, 53; Mr C.S. Pick, publisher, 81; Sir Lynden Pindling, former Prime Minister of the Bahamas, 68; Professor William Ritchie, Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University, 58; Mr Paul Schockemöhle, showjumper, 53; Mr William Shatner, actor, 67; Mr Stephen Sondheim, composer and lyricist, 68; Professor Sir Colin Spedding, chairman, Council of Science and Technology Institutes, 73; Lord Stokes, 84; Mr Leslie Thomas, author, 67; Admiral Sir Richard Thomas, 66; Professor Sir Leslie Turnberg, former President, Royal College of Physicians, 64; Miss Fanny Waterman, concert pianist and teacher, 78; Professor D. Watson, Director, Brighton University, 49; Miss Priscilla Yates, former Director, Royal Academy of Dancing, 51.

Memorial service

Sir Reay Geddes
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Reay Geddes, a former Chairman of Dunlop and of the Charities Aid Foundation, was held on Thursday at St Columba's, Pont Street. The Very Rev John H. McIndoe officiated, assisted by the Rev W.A. Cairns.

Professor Duncan Geddes, son, read the lesson. Miss Lindsay Geddes, daughter, read from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and Mr Charles Dean, grandson, read *Up-Hill* by Christina Rossetti. Sir Campbell Adamson, Mr Christopher Buxton, representing the Abbeyfield Society, and Mr Hugh Geddes paid tribute. Among others present were:
Mr Piers Geddes (son), Mr and Mrs Michael Wyndham (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs Candida Hunt (daughter), Mrs Duncan Geddes (daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs James Verschoyle, Mr Gavin Geddes, Miss Gaia Geddes, Mr Acland Geddes, Mr Alexander Hunt, Mr Oliver Hunt (grandchildren), Lord and Lady Geddes, Mrs Hugh Geddes, the Hon Mrs John Geddes, Mrs Ford Geddes, Mrs Fiona Goodwin, the Hon Mrs M K Geddes, Mr Sandy Geddes, Miss Camilla Geddes and Mrs Marie-Anne von Simson.
Nina Viscountess Bearsted, Lord Richardson of Duntisbourne, KG, Lord and Lady Boardman, Lady Sandford, Sir Michael Palliser (also representing the Salzburg Seminar), the Hon Lady Aitken, Lady Adamson, Sir Donald Barron, Sir Campbell Fraser, Lady Rowan, Sir Oliver Chesterton, Sir Duncan Oppenheim, Lady Sandilands, Sir Peter and Lady Bazendell.
Mr A Clowes, Mrs Christopher Verity, Mrs R Knight, Mrs E Norman-Butler, Mr H V Hodson, Mrs Philip Astley, Mr and Mrs Charles Handy, Mr Julian Hunt, Mr Graeme Elliot, Mr Peter Clarke, Dr Martyn Bird, Mr Ken Johnson, Mr Noel Burdett, Mr M Wright, Mr John Lumley, Dr Jonathan Hunt.
Mr John A Brooks (vice-chairman, Charities Aid Foundation), Mr Richard Bale (representing the Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce), Mr Tony Killick (Overseas Development Institute) with Mrs Sheila Page and Mr Adrian Hewitt, Mr Ian Anderson (National Centre for Volunteering), Mr Peter Unwin (chairman, Abbeyfield International) and Mr Peter Newbery, Mr A Stanley Kiser (director, Christian Association of Business Executives), Mr Stanley G Crooks (representing the Chairman of Pirelli), Mr J F Cuills (secretary, British-Italian Society), Mrs Gillian Davies and Mrs Ursula Bradley (HSBC Holdings), Mr Roger Bailey (SMMT), Mr James Partridge (Changing Faces), and Mr Paul Varney (Caledonian Club).

Dinners

Royal College of Radiologists
To mark his 80th birthday, Professor R.E. Steiner, Emeritus Professor of Diagnostic Radiology, University of London, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, accompanied by Mrs Steiner, was the principal guest at a dinner for past and present officers of the Royal College of Radiologists held last night at 38 Portland Place. Dr M.J. Brindle, president of the college, was the host.

Company of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen
The Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Company of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen held a dinner at Tuckers Hall, Exeter, last night in honour of Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, Master of the Drapers' Company, and Mr A.A.M. Mays-Smith, Master of the Clothworkers' Company. The Master, Mr John Parkin, presided.


DOUG MARIE

Vanessa Kett and Stephen Mallinson, of Moseley, Birmingham, who have announced their engagement

Weekend anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Johann Sebastian Bach, composer, Eisenach, Germany, 1685; Modest Mussorgsky, composer, Karevo, 1835; Albert Chevalier, music-hall entertainer, London, 1861; H.A.L. Fisher, historian, London, 1865; Florenz Ziegfeld, theatrical producer, Chicago, 1869.

DEATHS: Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury 1533-56, burnt at the stake, Oxford, 1556; Samuel Parker, Bishop of Oxford 1686-88, Oxford, 1688; Robert Southey, Poet Laureate 1813-43, Keswick, 1843; Sir Michael Redgrave, actor, Denham, Buckinghamshire, 1985; Leo Fender, pioneer of the electric guitar, Fullerton, California, 1991.

Africans were massacred by police at Sharpeville, South Africa, 1960.

Alcatraz prison in the Bay of San Francisco closed, 1963.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Sir Anthony Van Dyck, painter, Antwerp, 1599; Carl Rosa, founder of the opera company bearing his name, Hamburg, 1842; "Chico" Marx, actor and comedian, New York, 1891; Nicholas Monsarrat, novelist, Liverpool, 1910; Gerard Hoffmann, humorist and musician, Berlin, 1925.

DEATHS: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, poet, Weimar, Germany, 1832; Thomas Hughes, politician and author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, Brighton, 1896; Frederick William Farrar, writer of school stories and Dean of Canterbury 1895-1903, Canterbury, 1903; Michael Todd, film magnate, killed in an air crash, New Mexico, 1958.

Because of a drought the American side of the Niagara Falls ran short of water, 1903.

The first cabs with taxi meters began operating in London, 1907.

Service dinners

4th Parachute Brigade
Colonel John Waddy presided at the annual dinner of officers of the 4th Parachute Brigade Group (1942-44) held last night at the Army and Navy Club.

Royal Engineers Yacht Club
Major General Graham Ewer, Commodore, Army Sailing Association, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Royal Engineers Yacht Club held yesterday at Brompton Barracks, Chatham. Brigadier John Moore-Bick, the club commodore, presided. Mr Malcolm McKeag also spoke.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.S. Almeyda, FRCS, and Miss J.M. Paul
The engagement is announced between John Stephen, eldest son of Dr and Mrs John Almeyda, of Welwyn, Hertfordshire, and Jennifer Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond T. Paul, of Ickenham, Middlesex.

Mr J.P.G. Barton and Miss A.T. Wright
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs Timothy Barton, of Dorset, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr Brendan Wright and the late Mrs Wright, of Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr S.R.de B. Bate and Miss C.Y. Gray
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr M.R.de B. Bate, of Beckenham, Kent, and of Mrs T.E.M. Stoneham, of West Burton, West Sussex, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.S. Gray, of Chester-le-Street, County Durham.

Mr J.D. Green and Miss P.A.F. Kennedy
The engagement is announced between David Green, of Hill Top, Swanmore, only son of the late William and Caroline Green, and Patricia A.F. Kennedy, of Chelsea, youngest daughter of the late Daniel and Dorothy Kennedy, of Ferndown, Dorset.

Mr N.J.W. Miles-Thomas and Ms N.D. Bohm
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mrs Teresa Collins, of London, and Major C.S. Miles-Thomas, of Paris, and Natalie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric A. Bohm, of Hong Kong.

Captain C.W.C. Swinley, RN, and Mrs R.W. Elgin
The engagement is announced between Captain Bill Swinley, OBE, RN, widower of Jenny Swinley, of Flaxley, Gloucestershire, and Clare, widow of Robert Elgin, of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Mr J.F. Wood and Miss H.J. Kinsman
The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mr and Mrs Gavin Wood, of Adelaide, Australia, and Helen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Clare, of Parkgate, South Wirral, Cheshire.

Mr S.P. Wood and Miss H.A. Day
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs H.P. Wood, of Wimbledon, London, and Helen, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs C.C.W. Day, of Whitstable, Kent.

Church news

Retirements and resignations
The Rev Richard Acworth, Rector, Two Rivers Team (Exeter) to retire July 31.
The Rev Garry Bennett, Team Rector, Southend (Chelmsford) to resign May 31.
The Rev Peter Bradbrook, Vicar, Crewe All Saints' and St Paul (Chester) to retire June 30.

School news

Caldicott Boys Preparatory School
The Governors are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Simon Doggart, BA Hons (Cantab), to succeed Mr Michael Spens, MA (Cantab), as Headmaster with effect from September 1, 1998.

The Cheltenham Ladies' College
The following awards have been offered and accepted for September 1998:
Junior Awards
Academic
Centenary Scholarships: Elizabeth Foxton, Buckingham Brown & Nichols, Boston, USA.
Major Scholarships: Caroline Harwell, Handcross Preparatory School, Horsham.
Minor Scholarships: Joanna Bingham, Godstowe Preparatory School; Victoria Boothman, Arlidge School, Cheltenham; Victoria Lee, Heath Mount, Hertford; Jessica Page, James Allen's Preparatory School, London and Lisa Woodhouse, St Mark's Junior School, Cheltenham.
Awards: Charlotte Fairbairn, Shrewsbury Junior High School; Jasmine Fisher, Beaudesert Park, Minchinhampton; Jessica Lazar, North London Collegiate; Charlotte Le Feuvre, Bishops Stopford School, Northants; Katie Martin-Fagg, Stokenchurch Middle School, Bucks; Ruth Melkie, St Michael's Preparatory School, Jersey; Flora Tonking, Lichfield Cathedral School and Charlotte Waldron, Kellett School, Hong Kong.
Music
Major Scholarship: Rebecca Newsom, Garden House, London.
Minor Scholarship: Charlotte Fairbairn, Shrewsbury Junior High School and Patricia Campbell, Paul Klee Gymnasium, Overath, Germany.
Awards: Victoria Lee, Heath Mount, Hertford and Ruth Melkie, St Michael's School, Jersey.
Sixth Form Awards
Academic
Major Scholarship: Rachel Chapman, St Paul's Girls' School, London and Janaki Verma, Cardiff High School.
Day Girl Award: Claire Simmonds, Balcarras School, Cheltenham.
Award: Lara Cheillah, St Andrew's School, Brunei Darussalam.
Please apply to the Registrar for a prospectus and details of the 1999 scholarship and entrance examination arrangements.

Fyling Hall School, Robin Hood's Bay
Former pupils, staff and friends of the School are invited to attend the 75th Anniversary Celebrations to be held on Saturday, May 30. Please contact Clare White on 01947 880 353 for further details.

Dulwich College
Dulwich College is pleased to announce the following awards:
At 13+
C D Broad Scholarships: A Janmohamed, Dulwich College Preparatory School; W G C Pearce, Dulwich College Preparatory School.
Harold Penney Scholarships: D W G Midgley, Dulwich College Preparatory School; R G Newman, Dulwich College Preparatory School.
Hartley Shawcross Scholarships: E D Drake, Dulwich College Preparatory School; J W A French, Dulwich College Preparatory School; A R Langley, Dulwich College Preparatory School; C P Williamson, Dulwich College Preparatory School.
Dr H M Fisher Scholarship: M P Brown, Dulwich College Preparatory School.
Alleyn Club Scholarships: A J Holden, Dulwich College Preparatory School; A A Parvez, Dulwich College Preparatory School; A S Spencer, Cumnor House School.
Art Scholarships: F A S Price, Dulwich College Lower School; T W F Crowley, Dulwich College Preparatory School.
Music Scholarships: T Hewitt-Jones, Dulwich College Preparatory School; E H Stansbury, Dulwich College Preparatory School.
At 11+
Bainbridge Scholarships: S B Block, Dulwich College Junior Forms; H Gas, Elliot Bank Primary School; R G Lamdin, Dulwich College Junior Forms; A Luqman, Dulwich College Junior Forms; S Mahalingam, Burlington Junior School.
D C Bauer Scholarships: B T Davies, Dulwich Hamlet Junior School; P C Dun, Christchurch Primary School, NW3; S I Mahgoub, Dulwich College Junior Forms; J M Hughes, St Saviours CE Primary School, SE24; S S Shakir, Cumnor House School; J J White, St Dunstan's College.
Lorraine Wilson Memorial Scholarships: A R Bor, Dulwich College Junior Forms; F Chaudery, Park Hill Junior School; B E Fombonne, Dulwich College Junior Forms; D D Patel, Dulwich College Junior Forms; M A Elliil, Greenhayes School for Boys; D W A Spence, Oakfield Preparatory School.
C C P Tanner Memorial Scholarships: H M Becerra-Nunns, Dulwich College Junior Forms; W J Charnley, Dulwich College Junior Forms; K J Daley, Kender Primary School; K O Eccleston-Brown, Alleyn's Junior School; C J B Rees, Dulwich College Junior Forms; M A Zaremba-Pike, Moor Park School, Ludlow.
Art Scholarship: P J S Morley, Penwortham Primary School.
At 10+
W E Grey Scholarships: O France, St Peter's Eaton Square CE Primary School; N K Le, Dog Kennel Hill Primary School; M Y Shah, Cumnor House School.
Music Scholarship: F V Taylor, Hill House International School.

Prizegiving

Painter-Stainers Company
Ms Daphne Todd, President of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, was the speaker at the annual prizegiving of the Painter-Stainers' Company held yesterday at Painters' Hall. The Master, Mr Reginald Price, presented prizes to the best achievers in National Vocational Qualifications Level 3 for Painting and Decorating at a number of technical colleges in the London area and to colleges such as the Royal College of Art, Royal Academy Schools, the textile department of Leeds University, UMIST, the Slade School of Fine Art, Byam Shaw School of Art, City & Guilds of London Art School and for conservation at the Hamilton Kerr Institute, the Victoria and Albert Museum and Courtauld Institute.

University news

Cambridge
King's College
Elected into senior research fellowships under statute EIV 2 with effect from October 1, 1998, in connection with the research-centre project on spatially-extended dynamics: Gesine Reinert PhD (Zurich), Jonathan Swinton MA PhD (London).
Elected into junior research fellowships under statute EIV 2 with effect from October 1, 1998, in connection with the research-centre project on spatially-extended dynamics: Guy Gielis PhD (Leuven), Matthew James Keeling PhD.
Elected into a fellowship under statute EVI 2 with effect from April 1, 1998, as a teaching officer in philosophy: Martin Kusch MA (Oulu, Finland); PhD Oulu, Finland.

ON THIS DAY

March 21, 1974

PRINCESS ANNE ESCAPES IN KIDNAP ATTEMPT

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips escaped a kidnapping attempt last night during which several shots were fired, but their chauffeur, personal detective, a policeman and a passenger in a passing taxi were wounded.

The car carrying Princess Anne and Captain Phillips was blocked by another car as they were returning along The Mall to Buckingham Palace from an engagement in the City. A man leapt out of the car and fired a hail of bullets.

Det Inspector James Beaton, Princess Anne's personal detective, fired one shot at the man, then fell wounded in the chest, shoulder and arm. Mr Alexander Callender, the chauffeur, was hit in the chest. Police Constable Hills, who was on duty near St James's Palace, was hit in the stomach when he went to investigate the shooting. Mr Brian McConnell, a journalist, who was a passenger in a taxi nearby, was hit in the chest.

Miss Sammy Scott, who was driving down The Mall a short distance behind the royal car, said: "I suddenly heard about four shots which sounded as though they were from a toy pistol." Miss Scott, interviewed on television, said she ran up to the royal car and saw a woman crouching down. She urged Miss Scott to "get down — it is a maniac." Miss Scott said:

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips, then her husband, were unhurt when a gunman ambushed their car and fired six shots at it. The man, who had planned to demand £1 million ransom, was caught by police in St James's Park.

"Princess Anne and Mark were completely on their own — huddled over to one side of the car. Mark had his arm around her."

"Both Princess Anne and Captain Phillips were quite untouched but obviously they were very shaken," a Palace official said.

The couple were returning at about 8pm from a private showing of the Riding for the Disabled Association's documentary film Riding Towards Freedom at Sudbury House, Newgate Street. The Princess is patron of the association.

Inspector Beaton fired one shot as the gunman closed in. He was wounded in the chest, shoulder and arm and was taken to hospital with the Princess's chauffeur, who was also hit in the chest. The wounded constable was Police Constable Michael Hills. The journalist who was hurt was Mr Brian McConnell, a former news editor of The Sun. The Princess's lady-in-waiting, Miss Rowena Brassey, who was also in the royal car, was not hurt.

It is believed that Mr McConnell jumped out of his taxi and tried to tackle the gunman.

Princess Anne and Captain Phillips were both taken the short distance to Buckingham Palace immediately after the shooting near St James's Palace.

Dozens of policemen carried out a close search of The Mall for bullets after clearing everyone from an area 300 yards around the scene of the shooting. A taxi, with the windscreen shattered on the driver's side, was alongside the royal car, which had an heraldic shield above the windscreen. Police photographers and dogs were brought in.

The police later interviewed a man at Cannon Row police station. Later, Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, told the Commons about the kidnapping attempt. He said: "The attempt did not succeed and neither the Princess nor Captain Phillips was hurt."

Princess Anne, resting at Buckingham Palace, afterwards said: "We are thankful to be in one piece. But we are deeply disturbed and concerned about those who got injured."


Captain Mark Phillips and Princess Anne were unhurt when a gunman tried to kidnap them

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You call me Teacher and Lord and rightly so, for that is what I am. Then if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. John 13 : 13,14.

BIRTHS

BUTLIN - On March 10th 1998, to Joanna (née Gray) and Paul, a daughter, Olivia Rose.

CAMPBELL - On Friday 6th March 1998, to Suzanne (née Every) and James, a beautiful daughter, Claudia May.

CORLETT - On March 17th at The Jane Crookall, to Julie and Andrew, a son, Henry ("Harry") James Robert.

FRATZSCHER - On March 16th 1998 at The Portland Hospital, to Dampng and Oliver, a daughter, Anne-Sophie, a granddaughter for Dr. and Mrs. Fratzscher of Germany and Prof. and Mrs. Zhou of China.

HAVERS - On 7th March, to Sally (née Hooker) and Simon, a daughter, Emily Elizabeth Ann, a sister for Noah.

RATCLIFF - On 13th March 1998, to Juliette (née Browne) and Stuart, a son, Charles Henry Thomas, a first grandchild for Henry and Marion and great-grandchild for Kathleen.

ROBSON - On Friday 6th March 1998, to Miranda (née Samuels) and Hugh, a son, Harold Francis.

SLOCOCK - On March 12th 1998, to Lesley (née Trent) and Nicholas, a son, Joseph John, a brother for Hannah and Emily.

STEWART - On March 20th 1998 at The Lindo Wing, St Mary's, to Robyn and David, a son, Jacob Joseph Becker.

WILSON - On Monday March 16th 1998, to Charlotte (née Lytme) and John, a wonderful daughter.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

STEPHEN - Jeannie and Jimmy Happy 40th Anniversary Mum and Dad. Lesley, Uwe, Stuart and Debs.

DEATHS

ASHTON - Edward passed away peacefully on 18th March 1998 at Bromley Hospital aged 96. Funeral Service will be held on Monday 30th March 1998 at 11.30 am St Mary's Church, College Road, Bromley.

BELL - Hilary Anne: Peacefully after a long illness on Wednesday March 18th at Gathrie Court Nursing Home, Edinburgh, Hilary Anne, aged 50 years, loving mother of Gregor, much loved daughter of Pete and the late Dr. Maurice O'Neill, and sister of Kenneth, Rosemary, Joan and Stephanie. Requiem Mass at St John's RC Church, Brighton Place, Portobello, Edinburgh on Tuesday March 24th at 10 am, and interment thereafter in Mount Vernon Cemetery at 11.15 am. Hilary will be received into church on Monday evening at 6 pm. Family flowers only please, or if desired donations in lieu to the Multiple Sclerosis Society in Scotland, 2a North Charlotte Street, Edinburgh. Enquiries to Thomas Morris Funeral Directors tel: 0131 556 6874. RIP.

BURNITT - Beryl Mary of Darlington on 18th March 1998 peacefully after a short illness aged 73 years. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Woodland Trust, Grantham.

DEATHS

CARSTAIRS - Dr. L.S. (Steve), much loved husband, father and grandfather, died peacefully in hospital on March 18th. Funeral Service New Southgate Crematorium on Thursday March 26th 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to MS Research c/o J.A. Clark & Son, 103 Wood Street, Barnet, EN5 4BX.

KERSHAW - On 20th March William Edgar C.M.G., V.R.D., M.D., D.Sc., Professor Emeritus, Surgeon Captain R.N.R., pausologist and Dunkirk Veteran, aged 87. Cremation private. Please no flowers.

LUCAS - PB "Laddie" died peacefully at home on March 20th. Devoted husband of Jill and much beloved father and grandfather. Funeral private, family flowers only. Memorial service to be announced later.

O'DONNELL - Alice Catherine Lucy 1969-1998. On March 14th after a short, inspirational and courageous attempt to overcome the inevitable. Alice adored by her husband Geoff, her daughters Flora and Ellie, and by Ma, Fast, Mary, Linzie, Meg, Cynth, Hank, Jane, Mick and Isla. Funeral at St Francis of Assisi, Kentisworth on 23rd March at 10.30 am, when all of her friends will be welcome. Donations instead of flowers please via John Taylor Funeral Services 01926 426062, which at the request of Geoff and family will be used to improve facilities for children of sick parents at the Waleguave Hospital.

PARKER - Edith Gladys (Ginge) of Fairlawn Avenue, Meole Brace Shrewsbury. Passed away peacefully on March 19th 1998 aged 87 years. Much loved mother of Eric and Jo. Funeral Service at Shrewsbury Cemetery Chapel on Thursday March 26th at 2.20pm followed by interment. Flowers welcome. Enquiries please to Frank Palmer & Sons Shrewsbury 01743 362024.

SHELTON - Roy Le Browning, of Medway and Faversham. Peacefully on 19th March 1998. Greatly loved husband, father and grandfather of nine. Cremation at Medway Crematorium (West Chapel) at 11.40am on Friday 27th March. Family flowers only. Donations to Pilgrims' Hospice 56 London Road Canterbury. Enquiries to Lyons Funeral Directors (01227 463506).

STOPFORD - Peacefully on Wednesday 18th March Eric, of Pewsey, Wilts, formerly Rector of Whitmore, Staffs, devoted husband of Heather, beloved father of Christina, Martin and Johnny, much-loved "grampa" of Charlotte, Rosalind, Harry, Benjamin and Elizabeth. Funeral Service St John the Baptist Church, Pewsey at 12 noon on Tuesday 24th March 1998, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations for "Sons of the Clergy" foundation should be sent to F. Dewey Ltd., 26 River Street, Pewsey, Wilts. SN9 5DH.

TOOP - On March 17th 1998 peacefully at her home Ethel Elizabeth aged 86 years. The beloved wife of the late Frank Herbert Toop and the dear mother to Geoffrey and John, grandmother to Lauren, James, Richard, Emily and Louise, sister to Connie and Charlie, mother-in-law to Elizabeth and Belinda. Funeral Service will be held at the Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton (North Chapel) on Thursday 26th March at 12.45 pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for The Mary Rose Trust may be sent to Frank Dewey & Co., 31 High Street, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex BN6 9TT, tel: (01273) 832179.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

GRAHAM - A Memorial Service for Michael Graham will be held at St Lawrence Church, Mawworth at 2.30 pm on Saturday 28th April. There will be a tea-party in the Village Hall afterwards.

NEWBIGIN - Memorial Service for Bishop Lesslie Newbigin Southwark Cathedral 3 pm Saturday 28th March.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

KAYE - Marie. Dearly loved and greatly missed mother of Sarah, Kate and Davina. Remembered always.

WALKER - Gillian Mary (née Bedrock) 4th June 1954 - 21st March 1992. RIP.

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OBITUARIES

BEATRICE WOOD

Beatrice Wood, American avant-garde artist and potter, died on March 12 aged 105. She was born in San Francisco on March 3, 1893.



It is perhaps a shame that so distinguished an artist as Beatrice Wood should be identified first in the public mind as the original of a character in fiction. Nevertheless, her appearance as the elusive girl agonised over by both male protagonists of Henri-Pierre Roché's autobiographical novel *Jules et Jim* — filmed by François Truffaut with Jeanne Moreau in the pivotal role of the beloved — at least draws attention to the crucial episode which transformed her from a rebellious young woman to an important force in the New York avant garde.

The vital date was September 27, 1916. Wood was visiting a friend of hers, the composer Edgard Varèse, in a New York hospital, where she encountered at his bedside the notorious French Dada artist Marcel Duchamp. Duchamp had achieved overnight fame in New York with his almost indecipherable painting *Nude Descending the Staircase* in the Armory Show of 1913. He was currently sitting out the First World War in America, occasionally adding to the outrage with more extreme examples of Dada thinking, such as exhibiting a bottle-rack and a urinal as ready-made works of art. Wood, it seems, was sceptical about the value of Duchamp's work, asserting that anyone could produce such scrawls. "Try," he said. She did.

Almost immediately Duchamp introduced her to his close friend Henri-Pierre Roché, then serving as a diplomat in New York and helping to foment artistic controversy. Wood's very first drawing after Duchamp's challenge, *Mariage d'une amie*, was liked so much by Duchamp that he had it reproduced in an avant-garde magazine called *Rogue*. Within three months Wood was collaborating with Duchamp and Roche on the production of their own magazine, *The Blindman*.

She was also exhibiting in the scandalous Independents' Exhibition of 1917, with several pieces, including a somewhat explicit nude painting of a woman emerging from a bath, to which Duchamp added the idea of substituting an actual bar of soap for one she had intended to paint over the vital area.

The world of the New York avant garde at this time is vividly evoked in another drawing by Wood, depicting the aftermath of the Blindman's Ball which celebrated the publication of the second (and last) issue of the magazine: five people — Wood, the Anglo-American poet Mina Loy, their friend Arléen Dresser, Duchamp, and the homosexual American painter Charles Demuth — ended up sharing the same bed, an occasion, it would seem, more uncomfortable than erotic.

Other drawings of the period also summon up the prankish, let-out-of-school atmosphere of these circles. Among other members were the French painter Francis Picabia and his wife; the American Futurist Joseph Stella; Arthur Craven, poet and prize-fighter; and the rich art patrons Walter and Louise Arensberg, who were to remain lifelong friends of Wood.

With the end of the war, Duchamp, Roche and the Picabias returned to France, and Wood eventually went back to her home state, California, where her career was to take a very different direction.

Beatrice Wood's parents were rich San Franciscans who seem to have been forever quarrelling, separating and coming together again. They had a major falling-out when Wood was eight, and her mother carried her off to Paris for two years.

In Paris she went to a convent school and became bilingual — or, as she put it, illiterate in two languages. After returning to the bosom of her family, she was sent to a smart New York school which she hated, and became very impatient of conventional constraints. When she was 17 she insisted on returning to Paris (with her mother in tow) to study painting at the Académie Julien. She then arranged to study with the stage designer Gordon Craig, but her mother regarded him as too disreputable; she allowed Wood to study acting with a member of the Théâtre Français, however, and left her in Paris in the charge of a friend.

Shortly afterwards Wood was back in New York, studying dancing with Pavlova's *maître de ballet*, Klyustin, and soon after that she was on stage as an actress. Her family did not like that, so she swept off to Montreal to take up an offer from the French theatre there. The Belgian director of the company fell passionately in love with her, and she married him, largely because of her family's resistance to the idea.

A couple of years into the marriage it transpired first that it was bigamous, and secondly that her pseudo-husband had made her responsible for huge debts, which were to swallow up any inheritance she might receive from those of her family with whom she had not irrevocably quarrelled. This was her situation when she met Duchamp, and indeed when she returned to California in 1928.

There she stumbled by chance on what was to become her second career. She was unable to match some teacups from Holland, and so determined to make the requisite teapot herself. She became fascinated with ceramics. In 1933 she enrolled in classes to formalise her knowledge, and in 1937 set up her own studio in Los Angeles.

Her work was of two distinct kinds. On the one hand, she made fairly traditional vessels of great beauty, lustreware in a variety of metallic finishes. On the other, she painted plates and made small ceramic sculptures more closely related to her drawings and paintings, and therefore mostly autobiographically inspired.

In 1948 she moved to Ojai, California, where she continued to work obsessively on her ceramics and make prints and drawings every day until well after her hundredth birthday.

In 1985 Wood published her autobiography, *I Shock Myself*. After the inevitable period of neglect, she was rediscovered as a unique survivor of a vital phase in the evolution of American Modernism, and as a considerable artist in her own right. Little affected by the neglect, she took the rediscovery in her stride, remaining resolutely realistic and firmly refusing to behave either like a cosy old lady or like a national monument. Earlier this year she gave a film award to James Cameron, who had interviewed her when imagining the character of a 101-year-old survivor for his film *Titanic*.

Beatrice Wood was never legally married, and long outlived her famous lovers, though *Jules et Jim* kept their memory alive.

PETER SICHEL

Peter Sichel, winemaker and merchant, died in Bordeaux on February 22 aged 66. He was born on September 19, 1931.

THE past 30 years have seen an explosion of interest in all aspects of wine, and during this time Peter Sichel became one of the most widely recognised authorities on Bordeaux wines in the English-speaking world. His activities extended over the whole business, from the selection and cultivation of vines to the making, bottling and exporting of his own and others' wines.

Born in England to a Swedish mother and an English father of Danish parentage, Peter Allan Sichel was educated at Oundle. After two years' Army National Service, he completed a business course before joining his father's wine business based in London and Bordeaux. (Another branch of the Sichel family is prominent in the German wine trade, based at Mainz.)

Arriving in Bordeaux in 1950 at the age of 19, Sichel quickly became fascinated with the production side of the wine trade. The family already had a share in the model Margaux third growth Château Palmer — purchased at a cost of a single year's outgoings in 1939. To this was added sole ownership of another more modest Margaux, Château d'Angludet, bought by Sichel in 1961 as a rundown property producing only 300 cases a year from old and unbalanced plantings, and subsequently much improved, to the point where it now makes reliable wines of undeniable classed growth quality.

As well as rebuilding the reputation of his own property, Sichel also immersed himself in the business of the firm's office at 19 Quai de Bacalan in Bordeaux, a complex operation which involved balancing the interests of the various parties — growers, proprietors, *négociants*, *courtiers*, exporters — who make up the traditional Bordeaux wine trade. So effectively did Sichel master all aspects of the business that he was elected president of the Society of Negociants in 1972, and in 1988 he became president of the Union des Grands Crus.

Awareness of the modest authority he was exerting in the Bordeaux region was spread abroad by the annual issue of his vintage reports, which soon became famous throughout the international wine trade. These meticulously plotted the climate during the course of each growing season, and considered its effects on the character of the



wine, and the likely impact on the market. When it came to business, he had a strong sense of fair play, and he could be sharply (and wittily) critical of the way in which the practice of releasing production in a series of partial "tranches" was used by some châteaux to test the market and increase demand. In the opening offers of his own wine, and in the lead he gave at Château Palmer, he showed exemplary moderation.

His prolific contributions to wine trade journals and other publications, as well as the regular tastings and lectures he gave, marked him out as the best bridge-builder of his generation between the wine cultures of Britain and Bordeaux. A natural innovator, he was impatient with the slowness of French bureaucracy and its resistance to experiment, and felt that the rigid laws of *appelation contrôlée* were placing French wines at a disadvantage in an increasingly competitive world market. Standing before some rapt audience, glass in hand, he rarely searched for similes, preferring instead to let the wine speak for itself as he described the circumstances of its birth. In the debate about "terroir" — the influence of site and microclimate on a wine's potential — he was convinced that man should observe and try to interpret what nature did best.

While his own property was being restored during the 1960s, Sichel had turned his mind to two other aspects of Bordeaux wine: the difficulties of small growers who had no outlet into foreign markets (unless they were discovered by some enterprising merchant); and the expression of Bordeaux in generic wines that could match in both quality and price the increasing competition from the New World and elsewhere.

In 1967 he demonstrated his belief in creating and aiding individual enterprise through a co-operative, when he established a modern winery, Cave Bel Air, in an area covered by the comparatively humble Premières Côtes *appelation*. Here small growers from the region could bring their grape harvests, subject to scrutiny and advice, and enjoy the benefits of modern vinification. In this new venture for Bordeaux, Sichel could make wine the way he wanted, and the various bottlings from Bel Air bear his signature on their label.

Retiring in 1996, he retained an active interest in the vines at his occasional quiet retreat of Le Trillol, high in the Corbières, and the co-operative Domaine du Révérend in Cucugnan nearby. The running of the family business he entrusted to his five sons, who survive him with their sister and their mother, Diana Heathcoat-Amory, whom Peter Sichel married in 1962.

J. T. WALSH

J. T. Walsh, American actor, died from a heart attack on February 27 aged 55. He was born on March 1, 1942.



AN ACTOR who specialised in playing the bad guy on screen, J. T. Walsh liked to describe his characters as "ethically challenged". He was the one actor whom directors called on constantly to depict individuals from the seedy underbelly of life, from con artists to pornographers — and all points in between.

Admired for his professionalism on the set as well as for his talent, Walsh nevertheless admitted in recent years that he was frustrated in Hollywood. He acknowledged that being without matinée idol looks he would never made it to leading man roles or status. Knowingly, he once remarked that he took menacing roles because being devilish was the only way he could get the girl. "Tom Cruise gets women one way, I get them another. I've just got to tie 'em up."

He was born James Patrick



Walsh; when he began acting he chose to use his initials to avoid confusion with another actor called James Walsh. But early on in his career he was misheard by a casting director, who took down his initials wrongly; thus he became J. T. and not J. P. Walsh — and so it stayed. Walsh grew up in Germany, where his father served in the American military. After graduating from the University of Rhode Island with a degree in sociology, he worked for a decade in a number of occupations, among them teacher, salesman, journalist and encyclopaedia salesman.

He started acting in New York regional theatre at 30, and in 1974 befriended an unknown American playwright called David Mamet. Cast in Mamet's play *American Buffalo*, Walsh earned only $100 for the six-week run which nevertheless launched his career in the theatre.

Ten years later Mamet cast him as the manipulative office manager in *Glengarry Glen Ross*, a part that won him critical praise and paved the way for a career in Hollywood. Walsh's stone face, hypnotic gaze and flat voice had casting directors thinking of him continually for tough guy roles, including a con artist in *The Grifters* (1990) and the Watergate conspirator John Ehrlichman in *Nixon* (1995). Walsh capitalised on his menacing screen persona, and it was his performance as the military creep in *A Few Good Men* (1992) and a pervert in *Sling Blade* (1996) that impelled one critic to call him the canniest and most invisible actor of the past decade. Last year he was also highly praised for his threatening role opposite Kurt Russell in *Breakdown*, in which he befriended a yuppie couple only to bury the wife alive.

Walsh also seemed to specialise in playing characters with Southern accents, despite never having lived in the Deep South. Asked once about his facility with Southern characters, Walsh replied that a childhood in the military was the best preparation an actor could hope for. He described the US Army as still a "Southern" army, with its rhythms and its heart still deeply rooted below the Mason-Dixon Line.

Before his death Walsh was working on the American science fiction television series *Dark Skies*, playing a morally circumspect naval officer.

Walsh's marriage was dissolved and he is survived by a son.

THE RIGHT REV EDMUND CAPPER

The Right Rev Edmund Capper, OBE, Bishop of St Helena, 1967-73, died on March 6 aged 89. He was born on March 12, 1908.



RECRUITED to the episcopate only towards the end of his career — and then to serve in what is probably the world's smallest diocese — Edmund Capper was nevertheless much loved by the people of the islands of St Helena and Ascension. He arrived in St Helena when the financial situation was grim but, with his knowledge of accountancy, was able to get things in order and left the diocese far stronger. One of his great concerns was his clergy. Here he made every effort to improve their stipends, which were far from good at the time. Many of the church buildings were also improved, thanks to the help and generous support of the St Helena Diocesan Association.

Having established himself in his diocese as a pastoral bishop, Capper did all he could for the Church when he was overseas — attending synods in the Province of Southern Africa or, when he was on furlough, in Britain. He was much encouraged by the heartfelt support he received whenever he came back to England. He was appointed OBE in 1961.

Edmund Michael Hubert Capper was educated at St Joseph's Academy in Blackheath, St Augustine's College, Canterbury, and Durham University, where he took a modest LTh in 1932. That same year he was ordained. He served his title at St Mary's, Strood, in the Rochester diocese. He then responded to the call to go to Tanganyika with the then renowned Universities' Mission to Central Africa. He did parochial work in the parish of Mickindani and Mindue, before joining the King's African Rifles Army Chaplains' Department, in which he served from 1942 to 1946. He was then appointed Archdeacon of Lindi and Canon of Masasi Cathedral, posts he held until 1954. His next move was to become Archdeacon of Dar es Salaam, before in 1957 taking up the post of Provost of the Collegiate Church of St Alban the Martyr, Dar es Salaam.

When Capper left East Africa, where he had certainly made his mark, he — rather surprisingly — went to serve in the diocese of Gibraltar, where he became chaplain at Palma de Mallorca in 1962, thus anticipating the growth of the British tourist trade in the Mediterranean. From Majorca, in another move certainly not foreseen by him, he went in 1957 to his island fastness of St Helena.

After retiring as Bishop of St Helena, he returned to the diocese of Gibraltar and became chaplain of St George's, Malaga, 1973-76. Bishop Capper was also auxiliary bishop in the diocese of Gibraltar in Europe, from 1973, and assistant bishop of Southwark since 1981. He took pride in his connection with both these diocese where he made many friends. A convinced high churchman and devoted Anglo-Catholic, he was an associate priest of the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield, and a member of the Society of the Holy Cross. In the last few years of his life at Morden College, he found life somewhat difficult through not being able to get about. However, he was fortunate to have many loyal friends who regularly visited him, and this gave him great pleasure.

He was unmarried.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENDED DIVIDEND
In the matter of THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 and in the matter of A J G WATTS LIMITED (In LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is my intention to declare a second and final dividend to unsecured non-preferential creditors of the above-named company no later than 17 July 1998. Creditors who have not yet done so are required, on or before 13 April 1998, to send their proofs of debt to the undersigned, John Percy Richards of Deloitte & Touche, Stonecutter Court, 1 Stonecutter Street, London EC4A 4TR, the Liquidator of the company and, if so requested, to provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the Liquidator to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt by the date specified will be excluded from the dividend.
Signed: J P Richards, Liquidator
Dated: 17 March 1998

No 001329 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 6 March 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named Company amounting to £37,519,005.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 1st day of April 1998.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said cancellation of share premium account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated the 19th day of March 1998.
LOVELATTERS & PAINES (DYL)
One Bell Street
London EC2T 8BQ
Solicitors for the above-named Company.

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IN BANKRUPTCY
IN THE NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE COUNTY COURT
No. 278 of 1997
RE: DAVID BOREE formerly carrying on business as a solicitor, current occupation unknown.
The Public Examination of David Boree, against whom a Bankruptcy Order was made on 6 October 1997 will be held at 11.00 hours on 23 May 1998 at Newcastle Upon Tyne County Court.
The Law Courts, Quayside, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 3LA
Dated: 10 March 1998.
Signed: D S Henry
Official Receiver, 3rd Floor, Westgate House, Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 1TU

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's or whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

KITTAN, MARJORY KATHLEEN of 72 St Mary Abbots Court, London W14 8RD died on 4 February 1998 particulars to CANTER LIMON Solicitors of 11 BEDFORD BUILDINGS, LONDON W8 6AA 1EB before 22 May 1998

CORNWELL, GERALD BRUCE of Rodnea, 24 Crabtree Drive, Givons Grove, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8LT died on 20th October 1997. Particulars to Blackworth & Pemberton Solicitors of 35 Great Peter Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3LR (Ref: PJM/228112-1/EHAM) before 22nd May 1998.

GRANT, CONSTANCE IRENE late of 75 Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent and previously of 67 Hawkesfield Road, Forest Hill, London, SE23 died on the 16 November 1997; particulars to Pritchard Joyce & Hinde, St Brides House, 32 High Street, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 1AY (Ref: CC), on or before 27th May 1998.

SEARLE, Betty Margaret, Clifton Rest Home, Bury, West Sussex, died 15th December 1997; particulars to Biddle Solicitors, 1 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7BU before 1st June 1998.

TIMMS, HELENA EILEEN of 5 Lancaster Close, Reading, Berkshire died on 26th February, 1998; particulars to Surjeet & Sheppard Solicitor(s) of 180 Tyler Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 1SH before 5th June 1998.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171 680 6678
OR
FAX: 0171-481 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

MILESTONES



Judge Dread, reggae singer, died on stage in Canterbury on March 13 aged 53.

Only Bob Marley and the Wailers had more reggae records in the charts of the 1970s than Judge Dread (real name: Alex Hughes). Dread weighed in at 18 stone, and the sexual innuendo of his lyrics was equally lumbering. He became a follower of Jamaican music as a lodger in a West Indian house in Brixton, and made his first record, *Big Six*, in 1972 for, he claimed, £6. It was denied airplay on Radio 1, but it rose to No 13 in the charts. He went on to make *Big Seven*, *Eight*, *Nine* and *Ten*. Dread reached a new low with *Y Viva Suspenders*, and despite his antics his reputation scarcely survived the 1970s. *Obituary published on March 16.*

Hugh Coveney, former Irish Government minister, was found dead in the sea near Cork on March 14 aged 62. He was born in July 1935.

Hugh Coveney captained the Irish team in the Admiral's Cup yacht race in 1979 and had to be helicoptered out of the sea when the Fastnet race was disrupted by storms that claimed 18 lives. He became Lord Mayor of Cork, and represented the city in the Dail from 1981 to 1987. He was an effective Minister of the Marine and of Defence in John Bruton's coalition Government. But after six months in office he had to resign after asking the chairman of the state-owned Gas Company to put his former firm of quantity surveyors on a list to bid for a contract.

Obituary published on March 17.

Dr Benjamin Spock, paediatrician and child psychologist, died on March 15 aged 94. He was born on May 2, 1903.

In the late 1960s Spiro Agnew, the subsequently disgraced American Vice-President, accused Dr Spock of being personally responsible for a generation of spineless pacifists. By rejecting strict toilet-training, rigid feeding times and discipline for thumb-suckers, Spock's



bestselling book *Baby and Child Care* (1946), had, he claimed, invented permissive parenting — with disastrous effects. Spock worked as a child psychiatrist, conducting surgeries in a notably relaxed atmosphere. During the 1960s he became an outspoken radical and anti-Vietnam campaigner. In 1968 he was arrested and charged with helping young men to evade the draft. He maintained that his childcare ideas had been misrepresented, yet later editions of his book noticeably moderated his laisser faire message.

Obituary published on March 17.

Sir Samuel Curran, FRS, physicist, died on February 25 aged 85. He was born on May 23, 1912.

Sam Curran had a key role in winning the Battle of the Atlantic by his part in the development of centimetric radar, which enabled Coastal Command to pinpoint U-boats for the first time. He was also prominent in the invention of the proximity fuse, effectively a miniature radar set in the nose of a shell, which helped coastal anti-aircraft guns to shoot down a large proportion of V-1 flying bombs. Then in 1944 he was sent to America to help with the development of the atomic bomb. In California he invented the scintillation counter, which measures radioactivity and is still in general use. In later life he steered the Royal College of Science in Glasgow to a new status as the University of Strathclyde, the first new university in Scotland for 400 years, and strongly supported links with industry.

Obituary published on March 19.



هكذا من الأصل

Shares falter

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
600	407½	Allied Domecq	582	+ 22	4.2	14.9
626	295	Bulmer (HP)	337½	+ 5	5.5	10.5
75½	28	Burn Stewart	29½		14.4	10.3
735	432	Diageo	695		2.6	29.8
1040	775	Glenmorangie A	820		2.0	19.6
380	258	Highland Dist	268½	+ 3½	4.1	12.4
336	157	Matthew Clark	210	+ 4	11.9	6.8
109½	45	Mrydom	48½		8.0	
2009¾	1368¾	SA Breweries	1718¾	- 3¾	2.1	

BANKS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521¾	919½	ABN-AMRO	1381¼	+ 9¾	2.2	20.6
1345	710	Abbey Natl	1175	- 34	3.3	18.0
1032	532½	Alliance & Leic	920	+ ½	2.9	18.3
796¼	388½	Allied Irish	775¼	- 6½	2.4	
516¼	363½	Aus New Z	405	- 7½	5.0	
5150	2875	Bank America	5150	+ 68¾		
754	297½	Bank Scotland	736	- 8	1.5	20.1
1996	978½	Barclays	1836	- 23	2.5	17.9
1276	517½	Bk of Ireland	1270	- 6	1.6	27.9
8959¾	6006¼	Citicorp	8642½	- 71¼		
1757¾	1268¾	Commerzbk	1587½	- 3½	2.8	
862½	290½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	481½	- 3½	0.8	
4583¾	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	4437½	+ 71¼	1.3	
1300	759¾	Espirito Santo	1171½	+ 3½	3.1	
947½	198	Fuji Bank Y	445½	- 2	0.9	
2363½	1277½	HSBC	1930	+ 47	3.2	15.4
2258½	1226	HSBC HK	1824	+ 36	3.4	14.6
1000	507	Halifax	942½	- 2½	2.3	27.3
642½	483½	Irish Perm	642½		1.9	
998	424	Lloyds TSB	961	- 21	2.2	25.5
1008	669½	Nat Aust Bk	862½	+ 8	4.5	
1209	663½	Nat Westr	1100	- 41	3.7	23.4
659½	449	Northern Rock	656½	+ 15	2.0	24.5
1000	508	Ryl Bk Scot	943	- 27	2.8	18.5
1093½	578	Stand Chart	901½	- 5½	3.6	14.6
£164¼	£164¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
4.5½	315½	Westpac	423	+ 1½	3.4	
400	267½	Woolwich	375	- 4	2.3	18.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1145	697½	Bass	1090½	- 36½	3.2	19.5
68½	43½	Bk for the Bar	61		3.9	18.2
205	132½	Buckland Brw	151½		5.8	13.3
155½	110	City Centre Rest	111½	- 1	2.8	17.3
1027½	575½	Compass Grp	988	+ 29	1.2	34.3
319½	250	Eldridge P 'A'	319½	+ 4	2.4	16.1
308½	221	Enterprise Inns	308½	+ 1	1.0	17.0
485	412	Fuller Sm A'	467½		2.8	15.1
586	310	Greenalls Grp	454	- 1½	4.5	11.6
770	610	Greene King	709	- 2	3.0	14.5
364½	152½	Grosvenor Inns	263½	+ 11	3.0	34.5
335	218½	Groupe Chez Ge	329		1.2	22.7
298½	213½	Hardy Hanson	246	+ 4½	5.8	10.7
2350	2005	Holt J	2025		3.7	11.3
78	56	Inn Business	66½		3.6	
357	279	Mansfield	285	+ 4	3.2	11.8
315½	252	Marston Thmp	312½	+ 1	3.3	11.1
615	427½	Morland	430		3.8	10.8
370	210	Old Eng Pub	369½	+ 7	0.9	29.2
47½	18½	Paramount	26½	+ 1½		
853	527½	PizzaExpress	805	+ 6	0.6	36.3
437½	297½	Ransoms (H)	302½	+ 2½	2.1	28.1
378½	262½	Regent Inns	371	+ 3½	1.2	26.5
199½	102½	SFI	199½	+ 2	0.5	34.8
931	566	Scot & New	873	- 36	3.2	17.5
305	222½	Vaux Group	285½	+ 4	4.9	12.1
339½	221	Wetherspoon JD	326½	+ 3	0.8	35.0
1103	620	Whitbread	1086	- 11	2.8	18.6
706½	430	Wolvhmptn D	517½	- 3½	4.5	11.7
423½	279½	Yates Bros	422½	+ 11½	0.9	30.4
702½	615	Young 'A'	642½	+ 2½	3.0	36.6

BUILDING MATERIALS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
67½	33	Aggregate Inds	66½	+ 2½	3.8	29.6
400	290	BPB	387	+ 12½	3.2	17.7
110½	86½	Baggeridge Brk	103½		4.2	14.0
64½	27½	Blockleys	60½		0.3	
452	271½	Blue Circle	380	+ 1½	4.2	15.9
113½	78½	Breedon PLC	107½	+ 1	6.0	14.7
189½	119	Br Dredging	185		4.5	
905	502½	CRH	902½	- 2½	1.1	
62½	42½	Calebread Rly	60½		8.1	4.9
152½	106½	Cape	143½	+ 5	5.8	12.1
273	158½	Caradon	205	+ 2½	5.6	10.1
133½	98½	Caradon pf	113	+ 1½	8.0	
130½	50	Chieftain Grp	118½		4.5	
272½	201½	Dyson (J&J)	218½		3.3	13.0
145	105	Dyson A'	116½		6.2	7.0
120	43½	Ennstone	53			
290	147	Epwin	168½		7.8	8.9
114½	83½	Gibbs & Dandy	114½		4.5	
187	119	Graham Grp	186	+ 3½	4.1	
365½	187½	Halstead (J)	252½	+ 2½	4.8	17.8
378	245	Hanson	362	- 2	4.2	3.7
287½	179	Hepworth	233½	+ 7½	6.6	18.0
145	72½	Howetune	123½		6.5	8.2
368	190½	Heywd Wlm	334½	+ 2	7.6	8.6
75½	43	Ibstock	56	- 2	5.0	
530	275	Johnston	295		5.1	10.8
107½	62½	Litteshall	97½		6.6	9.3
137	82½	Marley	109	+ 6	5.3	10.6
160½	119½	Marshalls	141½	+ ½	4.8	
451½	328½	Meyer Intl	410	+ 11½	3.8	15.3
95½	64½	Morcros	76½	+ ½	3.1	16.8
189	103½	Pilkington	127	+ ½	4.6	16.2
264½	168½	Polypipe	178	- 3	2.4	13.3
27	14½	Quangold	17			14.5
1147½	740½	RMC Gp	987	+ 2	3.2	13.9
114½	76½	Ruberoid	94½	+ 8	6.5	17.6
139½	91½	Rugby Group	125½	- ½	3.7	24.6
113	76½	Russell (A)	79	- 1½	4.4	12.0
346½	195½	SIG	216½	- 1½	4.6	10.6
3½	1½	SWP	1½			9.5
237½	211½	Sharpe & Fisher	226½		3.3	14.8
25	9½	Spring Ram	23½		0.5	
238½	144½	Streamline Hldgs	238½	+ 5	4.6	14.6
134	93	Tarmac	118½		5.8	15.0
140	82½	Titan	86½		7.5	9.2
622	436½	Travis Perkins	622	+ 13	2.2	18.7
80½	34½	Tudor	80½		4.7	16.0
299½	157½	Ultraframe	298½	+ 6	1.5	31.6
570	410	Wolseley	421	- 8½	3.5	13.4

CHEMICALS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
175½	134½	Albright & Wil	162	+ 2	4.5	15.6
204½	99	Allied Colloids	203½		2.0	27.5
135	100	Amber Ind	115	+ 2½	6.2	9.1
117½	91½	Amberley Gp	106½	+ 1½	2.0	18.0
100	82½	Amlona Ex	83½			13.6
2531½	1865½	BASF DM	2103½	- 6½	3.2	
1195	850	BOC	1003	- 22	3.3	17.3
393½	248	BTP	393½		3.8	18.8
2859½	1934½	Bayer DM	2443½	- 3½	2.3	
126	68½	Brent Chemicals	111	- 4	3.4	
[illegible]						

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	300	Autolaspeta	325	+ 1½	2.0	16.6
328	229	Ascot Hldgs	248½	+ 4½	2.6	10.9
917	509	Bowen Hill	621½	+ 1½	3.3	17.0
697½	462	BAT	640	+ 5	4.2	17.0
60½	37½	Bradley Inv	38½	- ½	8.1	9.5
266	167	Cookson	248	+ 1½	3.8	13.0
240½	197½	Cosalt	220½	+ 1	6.4	8.7
585	255½	DCC	539		1.8	20.1
383	243½	Galliford	346	+ 8	7.2	9.6
667½	388	Hatch Whamp	450½	+ 4½	2.6	27.7
460	361	Imperial Tob	412	+ 2	6.5	10.1
522½	231½	Jardine Math	282½	- ½	5.5	
158½	74½	Lonrho	108	+ 2½	5.5	18.7
175½	141½	McLeod Russel	159½		5.5	11.6
541½	388½	Powell Duffryn	541½	+ 8	5.8	14.1
197½	101	Slaveley	120½	- 1½	9.3	15.8
604½	259	Swire Pacific	337½	+ 1½	4.1	
397½	241½	TT Group	287½	- 5	3.5	11.8
384½	252½	Tomkins	356½	- 17½	3.4	15.1
300½	165	Unidare	230		7.1	11.7
498	350	Wardle Storeys	485		5.3	14.8
387½	285½	Wassall	309	- 9	2.6	14.3
166½	122½	Whitecroft	135		4.3	21.9

ELECTRICITY

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
509½	184½	Br Energy	500	+ 3	3.5	49.3
873½	463½	Energy Group	840		3.1	16.9
377½	226	National Grid	351	+ 7	4.1	13.9
700	427	National Power	580	- 13½	6.0	7.9
900	565½	PowerGen	816	- 22½	4.0	12.4
578	319½	Hydro-Elect	578	+ 6½	3.9	13.2
599	331½	Scottish Power	582	+ 10½	4.1	14.4
580	373½	Southern Elec	537	- 3	5.2	14.3
576	523	Viridian	559½	+ 8	4.8	39.1

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

ENGINEERING

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

CONSTRUCTION

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

DISTRIBUTORS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
212½	149½	Acton Op Sols	202½		1.5	20.5
410	275	Adam & Harvey	342½	+ 17½	8.2	5.2
21½	6½	Abrandied	18½			
2½	1½	Ass Br Eng	1½	...		68.8

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
154	97	Adwest	128½		6.1	10.0
197	152	Airflow Stream	155		6.5	11.2
757	565	Avon Rubber	675	+ 7	3.4	15.1
345	227½	Bodmin	342½		2.7	
154	96	Britax	153½	- ½	2.6	16.3
339½	238½	Dennis	287½		4.0	13.3
363½	219½	First Tech	363½	+ 1½	1.4	25.5
1685	907	GKN	1606	- 24	1.9	20.3
4487½	3337½	General Mtr	4221½	- 12½	2.9	
583½	357	Heelys	489	+ 1½	4.3	
2328½	1540½	Honda Motor	2015½	+ 16	0.4	
502	312½	Lucd	458½	+ 5½	3.7	12.6
245	180	LucasVarity	237½	- 1½	2.1	15.1
217½	131	Mayflower	202		1.7	30.2
172½	95½	Sytone	116½	+ 3	7.0	9.6
260	123	T & N	257½		4.2	14.9
85½	18	Toad	31½			

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
670	416	AB Food	615	- 43	2.0	19.7
311½	215	Acatos & Hutch	231½		5.7	24.4
48½	24½	Albert Fisher	28½	+ 1½	14.9	7.4
320	230	Banks (S G)	232½		6.2	8.4
495	322	Barr (AG)	481		2.9	12.5
44½	30	Bensons Crisp	38½		5.1	8.2
402	209	Booker	270	+ 1½	11.8	11.3
714	415	Blake Bros	714	+ 9	1.8	24.5
220	83	CPL Aromas	100		6.0	28.8
879	464	Cadbury-Schwpt	818	- 6	2.2	22.0
335	165	Carrs Milling	175		8.2	6.0
114½	57½	Cavaghan	114½		4.0	20.2
367½	203½	Carstells	245½	+ ½	5.3	11.7
367½	195½	Dairy Crest Group	359½	+ 16	3.5	15.2
365	217½	Dalgety	365	+ 5	3.3	
52½	30	Daniels SJ	50½		0.7	28.2
485½	262½	Devro	485½	+ 1	2.5	30.3
130½	79½	Finlay (James)	121½	- 4	3.7	22.3
505	250	Geest	505	+ 7½	2.5	
26	8½	Glenvil	11½	+ ½	7.9	14.1
380	270	Greencore	337	+ 11	2.6	16.5
211½	99½	Hazlewood Fds	204½	+ 9	4.3	14.7
200½	142	Hillsdown	182½	+ 2	6.8	10.9
77½	35½	JLI Group	62½		9.5	13.0
420	345	Linton Park	399		5.0	8.6
142	87	Matthews (B)	98½		5.9	8.6
235½	177½	Nichols (V)	208½		4.4	11.6
315	189½	Nbo Foods	315	+ 3	3.9	18.1
28½	13	Nobrulo Fs	16½	- ½	1.5	8.4
112½	77½	Paramount Foods	97½	...	6.7	
105	47½	Pascoe's	55			60.2
147½	68½	Perkins Food	143½	+ 1	3.3	
122½	47½	Plant & Gen	82½		2.4	
167½	60	Sanky Farm	64		10.0	5.9
44½	25½	Sims Food	27½	- ½		2.9
567	398½	Tate & Lyle	517	- 1½	3.5	14.0
191½	112½	Trafft	128½		5.9	14.2
714½	414	Unigate	713	+ 8	3.6	17.2
593	337½	Unilever	568	+ 10	1.9	24.9
4187½	2487½	Unilever (NV)	4087½	+ 93½	1.6	
280	187	Utd Biscuits	269	+ 4	5.0	18.5
60½	29½	WT Foods	60	+ 1	3.1	23.0

HEALTHCARE

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
415½	243½	Alpha UniChem	415½	+ 20	2.7	32.0
158½	116½	Assoc Nursg	158½		3.0	25.0
870	472½	Bespak	868½		1.8	24.9
1432½	115	Biocomps Intl	154	- 10		
159½	96	Care UK	158½		1.0	18.4
50½	45½	Celsis	46	- 1		
506	355½	Community Hl	505	+ 11½	3.0	18.4
31½	24½	DressCare	29½	+ ½	4.3	
28½	4½	Emlused	8			
167½	106½	Fortuns Group	149	+ ½	2.7	13.9
168½	142½	Gyrus	160½	+ ½		
215	129	Honligh Tec	165	- 1½	2.3	20.8
390	81½	Isotrone Tech	130	+ 12½		
95	60	Idarcare Gp	91		4.9	48.6
580	330	Lloyds Chm	547½		1.5	19.5
182	143	Lon Intl	175½		2.8	23.5
230½	122½	Nestor Hlth	220½	+ 1	2.0	20.8
2750	1102	Nycomed Amsh	2300	- 15	0.9	51.8
30	3½	Premier Health	5½			
322½	234½	Schol	322½	+ 9	3.4	17.5
605	382½	Seton Health	600½	+ 1½	1.3	23.5
919	123	Shield Diag	643	+ 2½		
270	180	Sinclair Mont	223			48.5
197½	150	Smith & Neph	182	- 1	3.5	16.4
3½	2	Tapsals	2½		4.6	15.5
412½	226½	West Hitecret	402½	+ 1	2.1	18.3

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

INSURANCE

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

LEISURE & HOTELS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

MEDIA

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

MINING

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

OIL & GAS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

OTHER FINANCIAL

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

PHARMACEUTICALS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

PRINTING & PAPER

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

PROPERTY

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

RETAILERS, FOOD

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

SUPPORT SERVICES

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
718½	368½	BT	681	- 4	3.5	19.7
1637½	270	COLT Telecom	1570	- 5		
749	450	Cable Wireless	749	+ 24	1.8	31.5
419½	207½	Cable&Wire Comm	419½	+ 18		
533	251½	Energis	512½	- 8½		
315	167½	Euro Telecom	282½	+ 1½	1.2	23.8
200	77½	General Cable	149½	+ 1½		
445	184½	Orange	423	- 5		
413	248½	Securicor	413	+ 19	0.5	53.6
134½	61½	TeleWest	95½	+ 4		
625	240	Vodafone	614	- 3½	1.1	50.6

TRANSPORT

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						

WATER

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
930	577½	Anglian	903	+ 3	5.0	12.4
335	203	East Surrey	320		4.4	15.0
1053½	740	Hyder	987½	+ 9	5.8	8.3
140½	101½	Hyder Cvn Pf	121½	+ ½	8.1	
770	552½	Mid Kent Hldgs	762½	- 2½	5.1	11.4
1085	663	Severn Trent	998	- 7	4.7	17.0
3305	2755	South Stafs	3395	+ 10	3.5	14.0
1005	595½	South West	949½	+ 17	5.0	12.0
1043	593½	Thames	945	- 6	4.7	10.6
890	605½	Utd Utilities	833	- 5½	5.8	13.5
550	344½	Wessex	510	+ 7	4.6	9.9
545	325	Yorkshire	530½	+ 7	4.6	10.3

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
370	84½	Abacus Recruit	292½	+ 10	0.6	20.1
217	170	Cala Inns	214		1.8	18.3
252½	155	Dawson Hldgs	170	+ 5	3.5	15.3
51½	36½	Freepages	35	+ ½		
98½	53	Megabonds	53		0.5	25.2
65	22½	Memory Corp	30½	- 2		
600	280	Prism Rail	461½	- 3½	2.4	
1265	620	Ramco Egy	657½	- 37½	0.2	
810	619½	Southend Resort	806	- 1	3.3	15.0
94½	65½	Southern Vecis	94½		3.8	14.7
60½	14½	Tricotbent	21½	+ 2		

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1997/98 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
[illegible]						

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1997/98 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
[illegible]						

LONGS (over 15 years)

1997/98 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
[illegible]						

UNDATED

1997/98 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
59½	43½	War Ln 3½%	58½	+ ½	5.96	
41½	30½	Tsy 2½%	41½	+ ½	6.09	
64½	47½	Consols 4%	64½	+ ½	6.22	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 5% 3%

1997/98 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
[illegible]						

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension † Ex dividend ‡ Ex scrip ▲ Ex rights issue ▼ Ex all § Ex capital distribution * Figures or report awaited ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

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BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY
SECTION 2

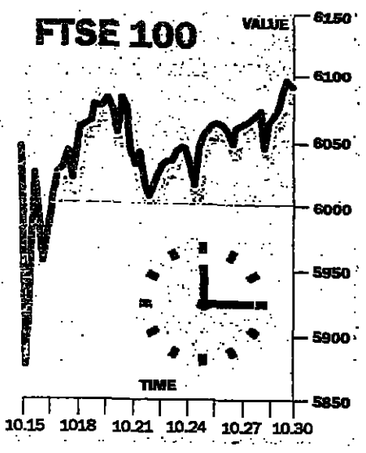
BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY MARCH 21 1998

RK

Triple-witching fuels 224-point market swing

15 MINUTE FRENZY



By Michael Clark and Richard Miles

PRIVATE investors were last night counting the cost of one of the most volatile trading sessions on the London stock market since the crash of 1987.

In the space of 15 minutes, the blue-chip FTSE 100 index suffered a 224-point turnaround as traders attempted to close their position as a series of futures and options contracts expired at the same time — a phenomenon known as "triple-witching hour".In volatile trading the index breached the 6,000 level for the first time in history, then plunged 117 points before reversing within minutes with a rise of 107 points.

At one point the index, which is calculated every 15 seconds, was frozen for approximately five minutes after two "rogue" trades in BG (British Gas). Several parcels of stock were offered to buyers at 224½p when the ruling price was 300p. Market sources said a simple keying error could be to blame.

Brokers said private investors had suffered the brunt of the losses, as City dealers took advantage of the new trading system at their expense. Sellers who opted to deal "at best" complained they had been forced to accept prices far below the ruling level.

In the case of SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceuticals company, sellers were forced to unload stock at 688p when the ruling price was 760p. "It was chaos. You could not have dealt on it if you were just a normal broker," said one trader.

Richard Hunter of NatWest Stockbrokers said investors who had sold parcels of shares in quick succession may have received different prices for their stock. "We carried on dealing where we could, but obtaining prices was a real problem," he said.

Private client brokers were quick to blame the Stock Exchange's computerised trading system. Sets, which automatically matches buyer with seller. Introduced in October for trading in the top 100 shares, the Exchange claimed Sets would make the market more transparent, increase volumes and narrow the spread between bid and offer prices.

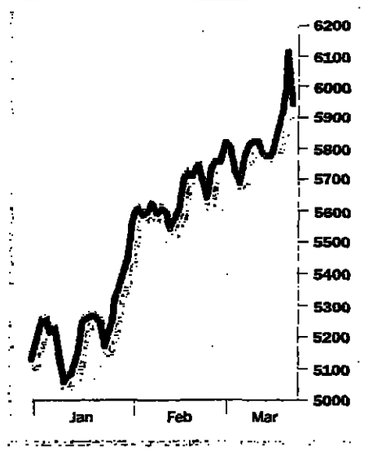
However, it has come in for heavy criticism, particularly from smaller brokers who complain it is stifling their businesses. Private investors have already been warned not to deal in the first hour of trading, and now brokers are telling them to avoid the "witching hours" which occur four times a year.

The Stock Exchange said private investors should have been warned by their brokers in advance about the futures expiry. Such a move is required under the Investor Protection Act. A spokeswoman defended the system: "It performed very well considering the amount of volume and the speed the market was moving at in such a short space of time."

The incident overshadowed the rise through the 6,000 level. Gareth Evans, equities analyst at Nikko Europe, said: "Investors should take some insurance [against a crash] at this level."

Stock market, page 31

FTSE 100 IN 1998



BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5956.3	(-41.6)
Yield	2.73%	
FTSE All share	2788.02	(-9.31)
Nikkei	16830.47	(+151.45)
New York:		
Dow Jones	8838.67	(+35.62)*
S&P Composite	1092.21	(+2.47)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/16%*	(5 1/16%)
Long Bond	103 20*	(103 1/32)
Yield	5.89%*	(5.89%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7 1/8%	(7 1/8%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	108 16	(107 22)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6570*	(1.6570)
London:		
$	1.6643	(1.6675)
DM	3.0521	(3.0470)
FFr	10.2320	(10.2160)
SFr	2.4947	(2.4978)
Yen	217.05	(217.42)
£ Index	104.7	(107.3)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.8310*	(1.8322)
FFr	6.1375*	(6.1410)
SFr	1.4960*	(1.4963)
Yen	130.33*	(130.75)
$ Index	109.6	(109.4)

Tokyo close Yen 130.02

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$13.60	($13.50)

GOLD

London close	$291.85	($291.85)

* denotes midday trading price

Halifax directors in float bonanza

By Caroline Merrell

HALIFAX directors earned more than £1 million in special bonuses after the successful flotation of the former building society last June.

The highest bonus was awarded to Mike Blackburn, chief executive, who saw his salary more than double to £823,930, mainly as a result of a flotation bonus of £308,479.

Mr Blackburn's remuneration package comprised a basic salary and benefits of £421,951, an annual bonus of £93,500, as well as the extra bonus.

A Halifax spokesman defended the sharp rise in salary by saying that the extra bonus related to the fulfilment of certain goals over a two-year period. These goals included the successful flotation of the £23 billion society. Mr Blackburn could have earned an additional £400,000 under the scheme.

Other directors of the Halifax also benefited from the reward scheme. The salary of Roger Boyes, group finance director, was boosted by £178,000 to reach £473,206, while Gren Folwell, deputy chief executive, also earned £178,000 from the scheme.

The Halifax plans to the introduce a new scheme this year, which will award the 150 most senior directors with a mixture of shares and cash according to the profitability of the bank. Gas pay-off, page 28

Tesco looks to Europe in fight over Levi jeans

By Julian Lee

TESCO is considering taking its fight to sell cheap branded goods, such as Levi jeans, Nike training shoes and Calvin Klein underwear, to Europe after the Office of Fair Trading refused to support the supermarket group.

Any decision to ask Karel Van Miert, the European Commissioner in charge of competition policy, to intervene is to come hand in hand with lobbying both at Westminster and Brussels to stop what Tesco claims is a restraint of trade.

Last October, Tesco asked the Office of Fair Trading to investigate Levi Strauss & Co, the jeans company, for alleged price-fixing because it refused to supply Tesco officially. The supermarket group claims that by allowing authorised dealers only to sell its products, Levi could effectively control the price at which its jeans were sold.

Levi's rejection of Tesco's application to become an authorised dealer forced the supermarket group to import supplies of the jeans from unauthorised dealers in Mexico, a practice known as "parallel" importing. Tesco sold the jeans at £30 each — up to £20 cheaper than in many authorised Levi stockists.

Since the success of its Levi coup, Tesco has also sold Nike trainers, Adidas sportswear, Calvin Klein underwear and perfume, and Sony playstations at cheaper prices than authorised dealers, and without the consent of the brand owners. Other retailers, notably Asda, have also taken on brand owners in their fight to sell. Tesco has been prompted to take its case to Europe after the OFT wrote to both Tesco and Levi this week clearing the jeams maker of any charges of price fixing.

John Gildersleeve, commercial and trading director, said it would continue with the campaign. "We are in no doubt that there is a moral issue at stake here and we are going to address it. We will lobby hard for an amendment or a change in the law either here or in Europe."

Asked whether Tesco will be taking the matter to the European courts, Mr Gildersleeve said: "Obviously that is one of the things we are considering. With Europe there is another area of law that can be examined and we will be looking how to go forward [with the issue]."

The area is a legal minefield and is set to become even more precarious with a ruling by the European Court of Justice due in the next three months. The court has been recommended to find in favour of the brand owner Silhouette Sunglasses against Hartlauer, a discount retailer in Austria, which bought glasses from parallel suppliers to sell in its stores.

The Silhouette ruling appears to prevent retailers from sourcing parallel goods from outside Europe, only to sell them within member states.

However, were Mr Van Miert to find Levi and other brand owners in breach of EU competition rules, this would force the European Court to look at the issue afresh.



Levi jeans feature in high-profile adverts but the company wants to use authorised dealers only

DTI ends Caradon 'insider' inquiry

By Jason Nisse

THE Department of Trade and Industry has ended its investigation into alleged insider dealing in shares of Caradon, the building material group, after an inquiry lasting more than two years and costing hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The three City figures at the centre of the inquiry — Derek Reed and Martin Murch, two former anaylsts at Robert Fleming Securities, the broker, and Tony Knox, chairman of Financial Dynamics, the public relations firm — have been told that no action will be taken against them and that the case is now closed.

The inquiry centred on a profit warning issued by Caradon in September 1995. Mr Knox was alleged to have told Mr Reed some days before the warning came out that Caradon was performing poorly. He and Mr Murch reduced their forecast for Caradon and mentioned this to Robert Fleming's equity sales operation and its fund management operation. Both sold Caradon shares.

The Stock Exchange insider dealing unit investigated the trading and passed a file to the DTI. Mr Reed and Mr Murch resigned from Robert Fleming two years ago and now work for Panmure Gordon, another broker. Mr Knox led a buyout of Financial Dynamics last year.

BA challenged in America

America's powerful Department of Justice has launched a damaging attack on the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines, prompting fears that the link will face substantial revisions. Page 28

Widows sells RJB shares

Concern about the long-term future of RJB Mining resurfaced yesterday after Scottish Widows offloaded 3.5 million shares, plunging the share price to its lowest level since privatisation of the coal industry. Page 29

Fortnums warning

The Queen's favourite grocer yesterday became the latest victim of the strong pound. Fortnum & Mason said that foreign tourists were shying away from its Piccadilly store. Page 29

United issues writ to stop Grabiner leaving

By Raymond Snoddy, media editor

UNITED NEWS & MEDIA is taking High Court action to prevent Stephen Grabiner, who was in charge of the company's newspapers division, from taking up a new job as chief executive of British Digital Broadcasting.

United, whose chief executive is Lord Hollick, wants to hold Mr Grabiner to his current contract, which runs until January 26, 1999. Mr Grabiner has not been seen at his office at United for the past ten days but has been unable to join BDB. The writ may mark the start of serious negotiations over compensation to United for the loss of Mr Grabiner's services.

☐ The Mirror Group has lost the services of Chris Oakley, the man who led the management buyout of Midland Independent Newspapers. Mr Oakley is to become chief executive of YPG, the group of newspapers centred around the *Yorkshire Post* sold earlier this year by United News & Media.

Savoy shares leap as US bid is confirmed

By Dominic Walsh

THE Savoy group saw its A shares leap 255p to record £17.50 yesterday after the company confirmed that it was in takeover discussions. Granada, which has a 68 per cent stake, albeit carrying just 42 per cent of the votes, gained 39p to £10.35.

The Savoy board said it had "received a number of approaches that may or may not lead to an offer being made for the company".

The group was forced to issue the statement after *The Times* reported that two of America's most powerful real estate investment trusts, Starwood Lodging and Meditrust, were poised to lock horns in a £500 million-plus takeover battle for the group, starting a full-scale auction.

However, it was suggested last night that Meditrust may have temporarily withdrawn over the terms of a possible inclusion of the Grosvenor House in the deal.

Tempus, page 31

Soros stages quick comeback at Energy

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

GEORGE SOROS, the billionaire financier, has puzzled the market by buying back into The Energy Group only weeks after he sold millions of shares in the company, which is the subject of a takeover battle.

Soros Fund Management disclosed yesterday that it had bought 10 million shares at 840p — the price offered by Texas Utilities in its £4.45 billion bid for Energy. Mr Soros now owns 1.92 per cent of the company, which is also being bid for by PacifiCorp, another American utility.

Earlier this month Soros sold 6.6 million shares at 840p, making an estimated profit of £2.6 million. Analysts were surprised that Soros had come back into the market, speculating that the only motivation could be a punt on PacifiCorp coming back into the battle with a higher bid. However, many believe that now looks unlikely.

Texas has 22 per cent of The Energy Group.

A WEEK IN THE CITY

Something significant happened this week. On Tuesday, Paterson Zochonis, that splendidly named maker of soap, did what it does every year with unfailing regularity and unveiled its results. During the afternoon, City screens lit up with a clutch of profit warnings and dud results. All this could mean only one thing. It was Budget day.

The lemming-like disposition of companies who assume bad news will go unnoticed in the melee is one of those quaint rituals of the Budget. This year's offenders include Claremont Garments, which issued a profits warning while Gordon Brown was in full cry — and saw its shares marked down 34p to 51½p. Booker, the food wholesale group, issued its second profit warning in three months — and waved goodbye to its chief executive.

The Budget itself proved an unexpectedly mild affair, with few nasty surprises for the better-off. Mortgage interest tax relief escaped further cuts and there was a reprieve for savers holding more than £50,000 in Peps and Tessas. All this *bonhomie* sent the pound to a nine-year high, spelling fresh pain for exporters and raising fears that interest rates will have to rise. The stock market reacted with predictable caution.

But that was Wednesday. By Thursday, economists had swung round to the view that rates might well stay where they are — buoyed by a fresh batch of monetary data. The ensuing optimism sent the FTSE 100 index soaring 94.3 points to within a whisker of 6,000, compared with 5,785.1 at the close on Monday. The index duly went berserk yesterday, swinging from 117 points down to nearly 108 points up. That's electronic trading for you.

The long-running saga of The Savoy Group took a fresh turn, with word that the Wontner family, which holds sway over the voting rights, may at last be ready to sell. Two American real estate investment trusts, Starwood Lodging and Meditrust, are understood to be squaring up for a £500 million takeover battle. A deal would provide an overdue exit for Granada Group, which inherited a 68 per cent stake in the Savoy — but not the votes — when it took over Forte two years ago.

Wm Morrison, Britain's sixth-largest supermarket group, announced plans to branch out from its Yorkshire stronghold into the South of England, creating up to 2,400 jobs. More of the same is expected from Daewoo, of Korea, which is teaming up with LDV, of Birmingham, to make trucks.

Robert Hanson, son of Lord Hanson, collected £500,000 when he left the eponymous building materials company at the end of last year. He now runs the family haulage business, Hanson Transport Group.

Michael Stoney, a former director of Mirror Group Newspapers who was set for a starring role in a second Maxwell trial — fraud charges against him were later dismissed — was censured and banned by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

The European Commission gave the nod to the $13 billion (€7.5 billion) merger of Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand, saying the tie-up did not pose a threat to competition. Brussels said the collapse of the proposed merger of KPMG and Ernst & Young had been crucial in its decision to drop regulatory objections to the deal.

Jon Ashworth

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هكذا من الأصل

Fleming to restrict fund to US

Fleming Investment Trust Management, the biggest force in the investment trust world, has bowed to institutional pressure and agreed to change the management style on the £70 million Fleming Fledgling trust.

After negotiations with leading shareholders Fleming Fledgling said it would restrict its global smaller company remit to just the US. It plans to rename the trust Fleming US Discovery.

The move comes a month after Advance UK, a vulture fund, revealed it had a 3 per cent stake in the trust.

Shell invests

Shell Exploration and Production, the US upstream arm of the Anglo-Dutch oil company, intends to spend $1 billion (£600 million) developing three oilfields in the Gulf of Mexico.

OGS float

Oxford GlycoSciences, a drug development firm specialising in proteins, is pressing ahead with a flotation that is expected to raise £30 million and to value the company at more than £100 million.

Confidence dip

British consumer confidence fell in March compared with February, "suggesting that the much-trailed economic slowdown is almost upon us", according to the latest consumer confidence barometer by GfK on behalf of the European Commission.

BA alliance under fire from Justice Department

BY OLIVER AUGUST AND JON ASHWORTH

AMERICA'S powerful Department of Justice has launched a damaging attack on the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines, prompting fears that the link will face substantial revisions.

Joel Klein, head of the Justice Department's anti-trust division, told a senate hearing in Washington that "significant changes" were needed for BA-American to proceed. However, the final decision rests with the US Department of Transport, which has yet to make public its views on the proposed alliance.

Mr Klein's comments — the first time an American regulator has spoken publicly about BA-American — fuelled fears that the long-stalled alliance might never leave the ground. Shares in British Airways fell 25p in London to close at 593p.

Bob Ayling, the BA chief executive, told the hearing that it was never expected that BA-American would be allowed through without changes, given the reduction of competition on transatlantic air-routes. A new "open skies" agreement between America and the UK would help free up Heathrow to competition.

BA said it was for the regulators to decide on the conditions to be imposed. BA would then have to decide whether it was worth proceeding in those circumstances.

Mr Klein said: "I don't think there's a question in anybody's mind that this deal won't go through simply as is. You can be sure that, unless we conclude that effective conditions can be imposed to competitive airline service between the United States and the United Kingdom, we will urge the Transportation Department to disapprove the alliance."

The main reason for his opposition is that it would endanger competition on routes between London and key US hubs. His views are similar to those outlined by Richard Branson, the Virgin Atlantic chairman. Mr Branson has engaged in a high-profile lobbying drive in Washington. His efforts culminated on Thursday with an address to a US Congress hearing, where he called the alliance a "merger from hell".

News Corp Italian talks break down

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

RUPERT MURDOCH, the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, has attempted to buy a controlling stake in Silvio Berlusconi's Italian broadcasting empire. However, talks broke up five days ago after details leaked to Italian newspapers, causing a sharp rise in the price of shares in Mediaset, Signor Berlusconi's television company.

If agreement had been reached, the plan was to use British Sky Broadcasting, the UK satellite television venture in which News Corp has a 40 per cent stake, as the vehicle to acquire the controlling interest. Unlike News Corp, BSkyB is an EU company. Key BSkyB shareholders were kept informed of the progress of talks. Board approval would have been needed for any deal.

Mediaset's three television networks have a 45 per cent audience share and 60 per cent of advertising revenue. It is believed that Mr Murdoch was approached by Signor Berlusconi while on holiday in Italy.

Mr Murdoch offered 10,000 lire a share for 50.6 per cent of Mediaset, or 15.8 trillion. Signor Berlusconi wanted 12,000 a share or 17 trillion (£230 million). The 10,000-a-share offer was a 20 per cent premium on the share price of Mediaset before the negotiations leaked.

A previous attempt by News Corp, the parent company of *The Times*, was made several years ago and also failed.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Renault president fined over closure

A BELGIAN court yesterday fined Louis Schweitzer, the president of Renault, the French carmaker, about £159,000 for mishandling the closure of the company's plant at Vilvoorde, near Brussels, last year. The court also awarded the Belgian unions, which mounted a ferocious but ultimately fruitless attempt to prevent the closure, symbolic damages of one Belgian franc. Renault has 15 days to appeal against the fine. The court ruled that Renault had broken the law by failing to give proper notice to the staff of its decision to close the plant with the loss of 3,100 jobs.

The shock announcement at the end of February 1997 sparked outrage and caused diplomatic shockwaves. The car plant was in the home town of Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister. Workers occupied the plant, Renault car sales plunged in Belgium and there were demonstrations. But Renault refused to bow to pressure, and an expert analysis backed the closure decision. The plant finally shut at the end of July.

Torday to raise £6m

TORDAY & CARLISLE, the diesel engines and industrial components company, is raising £6 million by way of a placing and open offer to consolidate its recovery as it emerges from a lengthy period of restructuring. Investors are offered one new share for two held at 36p each. Existing shares rose 8p to 47½p yesterday. The company also reported a 17.2 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.36 million in 1997. Earnings rose 10.7 per cent to 6.2p a share. There is again no dividend.

Minerva looks to expand

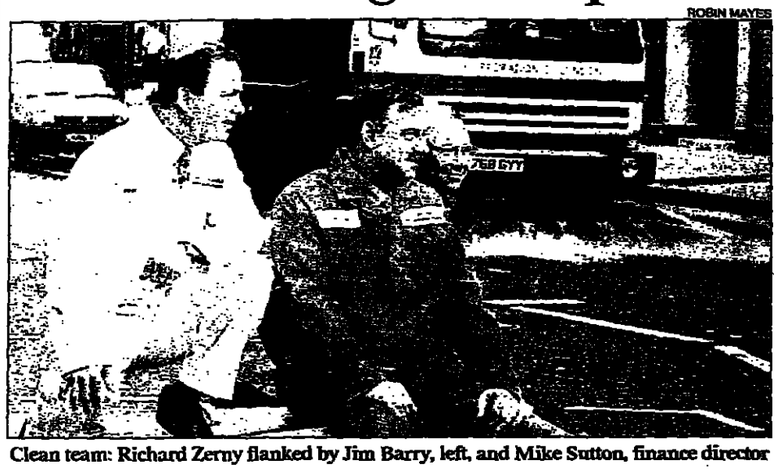
MINERVA, the central London property company, said the outlook for commercial property continues to improve and that further acquisitions are being considered. The company was reporting interim pre-tax profits of £1.1 million, against losses of £55,000 before exceptional items last time. Earnings were 1p a share (14.5p). The interim dividend is 0.8p a share (nil). In January the company raised £87.5 million through a rights issue and in February it announced a £138 million debt refinancing involving Bradford & Bingley Building Society.

Edinburgh output rises

EDINBURGH OIL & GAS, the independent exploration and production company, reported a 25 per cent rise in daily average production to 1,082 barrels of oil equivalent per day for the year to December 31. The company plans a record number of wells for the current year, continuing to focus on the lower risk areas of onshore exploration and development in the UK. In 1997 pre-tax profits fell to £509,000 from £643,000. Earnings were 1.45p a share (1.84p). The dividend is 0.30p a share, up 7 per cent.

Johnson begins acquisition spree

ROBIN MAYES



Clean team: Richard Zerny flanked by Jim Barry, left, and Mike Sutton, finance director

JOHNSON Group Cleaners has revealed plans to boost its presence in the washroom services industry after making the first of what was likely to be a series of acquisitions (Kathy Lipari writes).

The company said it had agreed to buy a Yorkshire operation for about £300,000, and Richard Zerny, chief executive, said the group planned to significantly increase its share of this industry over the next five years.

Johnson, whose US chief executive is Jim Barry, saw pre-tax profits slip to £17.5 million (£18.8 million) in the year to December 27. Earnings rose 6.3 per cent to 24.82p. A second interim dividend of 9.6p makes 12.6p for the year, up 6.8 per cent.

Parkland axes payout and issues profit alert

BY JASON NISSÉ

SHARES in Parkland Group, the troubled Yorkshire textile company, yesterday fell from 108½p to 71p, a five-year low, after John Jackson, the company's new chief executive, cancelled the interim dividend and gave warning that the group will make no profits this year.

Mr Jackson took over from Bryan Lodder, who was ousted as chairman and chief executive earlier this year. Mr Lodder has issued a writ for unfair dismissal, claiming compensation that Mr Jackson said was "heading north towards £1 million".

Other boardroom changes are expected in the next few weeks as Parkland reviews its financial position.

Mr Jackson said that the group would do not better than break even this year before non-recurring costs. Big write-offs to do with the group's Nottingham spinning plant and investment in woolmaking in Australia are expected.

Schroders pay boost

SCHRODERS, the merchant bank, has awarded Win Bischoff, its chairman, share options valued yesterday at £675,000, and the Hon Nicholas MacAndrew, managing director, options worth £326,000.

The awards are part of the group's equity compensation and performance share plan. The options can be converted into shares without having to pay a penny after five years if Schroders meets certain performance targets, which have not been disclosed.

British Gas directors had £600,000 payoff

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO former directors of British Gas who had clashed with the industry's regulator shared compensation of more than £600,000 when they left the company last year, it emerged yesterday.

Harry Moulson was paid £409,500 when he retired through ill health from the post of managing director of Transco, the pipeline business. The dispute with Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, had been over price controls, and he said her actions were like those of King Herod.

He also received a £10,319 discount on the purchase of his company Range Rover, according to BG's annual report.

Philip Rogerson, the deputy chairman, also left having called Ms Spottiswoode's plans "the biggest smash and grab raid" in corporate history. He received £200,000 with a pension contribution of £10,000.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Denmark Kr	12.20	11.31	S Africa Rd	8.96	8.02
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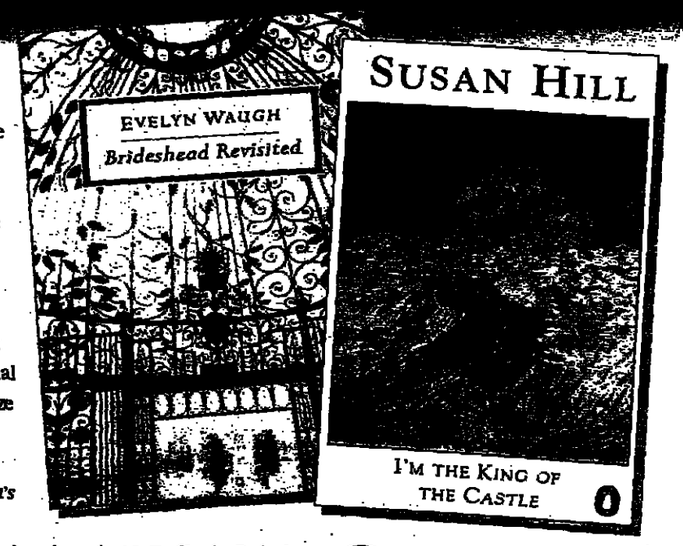
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CHANGING TIMES

Butler's boot focused on boards

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Directors will soon learn to beware the presence of the Focus Fund on their shareholder registers. It will be a signal of a need for change — and a warning that, if change is not forthcoming, life could become more than a little uncomfortable for the board.

The fund is currently assembling its fire power and claims to have more than £100 million lined up, with a target of around £500 million. By the summer, it will be ready to leap into action.

Directors of under-performing firms among the largest 350 have reason to take the threat of Focus seriously, for it comes backed with the weight of pension fund manager Hermes. Hermes, under Alastair Ross Goobey's leadership, has demonstrated admirably aggressive tendencies in its approach to investment, not always winning the approval of more staid corners of the investment community. Right at the moment, it is unlikely for instance, that Michael Hart is much of a fan.

Hart, an immaculately pinstriped investment manager of the old school, has seen his long career somewhat blemished of late. No sooner had the former Foreign and Colonial boss taken on the chairmanship of the Association of Investment Trust Companies than he found himself in an unseemly wrangle over the running of the Brazit trust, which resulted in the entire board, including Mr Hart, being forced out. If he had taken more notice of what Hermes was demanding by way of change at the under-performing trust, such a drastic outcome might have been avoided. Instead, last week Mr Hart felt obliged to bow out of the AITC job.

Such a result would surely win the approval of Robert Monks, the towering American who runs Lens Investment Management in the US. Lens is a pro-active investor that claims to have secured radical change in companies, including Westinghouse and Sears. Coming together with Hermes to form the Focus Fund is a meeting of like souls.

The man who will be putting the boot in for them — that is, persuading management of the need for change — is Peter Butler, a former finance director of British Sugar who now carries the somewhat threatening title of corporate focus director. His focus is on other companies, not Hermes, and after a couple of years of intimating to directors that they are not focusing correctly, he claims some successes. Hambros might not be the neatly dismembered business it is today if Butler had not given voice to the growing shareholder discontent over the performance of the shambling group. Butler will run the new fund and expects to focus on up to ten companies at any time. Monks has, apparently, helpfully offered his suggestions as to suitable cases for treatment, with a list that includes BICC and Rolls-Royce. Butler's attack will be likely to begin behind closed doors. But the Brazit episode demonstrated that Hermes will fight in the open when necessary. You have been warned.

Annual earbashing must stay on agenda

The pro-active shareholders at Hermes will look aghast at the radical corporate governance suggestion from Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale. Lord W, who baits the Cadburially correct lobby by combining the chairman and chief executive roles at GUS, has come up with the idea that annual meetings should not be annual events. He would like to do away with them as regular occurrences and stage a get-together only when a significant proportion of shareholders demanded one.

To Lord Wolfson's way of thinking, annual meetings are costly and time wasting. Many who have had to sit through them would agree that this is often the case. Large shareholders tend to confine their questioning to the sort of private sessions that Mr Butler will be demanding, leaving the floor to the band of private shareholders who can spare the time to attend these daytime fixtures. The result produces a mish mash of highly personal questions and, often, unwarranted sycophancy.

Those with long memories still cherish the moment at a Marks & Spencer annual meeting when the then chairman, Lord Rayner, was stumped by a very reasonable request to explain why it was that chocolate orange biscuits were a seasonal line. He had coped admirably with queries on pyjama sizes and trouser lengths, but the rationale of the biscuit-buying policy was beyond him. He promised to look into it.

In his glory days, Lord Hanson turned the AGM into a full scale theatrical production, taking over the Barbican Hall and even trying to select questions in advance. Coach parties from his native Yorkshire would come for the chance to shake his hand.

On this level, annual meetings serve no more purpose than to allow private investors to feel a little closer to their company. But there are moments when shareholders do choose to grab the moment and call the directors to account. It happened at the First Leisure meeting, when Michael Grade's generous salary package came in for a hammering and an embarrassing vote.

The mere threat of Lord Wolfson's proposal being taken seriously should be enough to persuade shareholders that they should make more use of the annual forum.

Halifax shareholders, for instance, should look forward to the chance to air their views on the huge bonus that Mike Blackburn has pocketed. Clearly, Halifax can afford the expense of one meeting a year for shareholders.

Magpies need to make substitution

Footballers are fond of saying that no player is bigger than the club for which he plays. But it seems that Douglas Hall and Freddy Shephard do not think this applies to the officer class. The two directors of Newcastle United seem to be able to insult the supporters, the players and the makers of the team shirts with impunity and still remain on the board of the public company.

However, with fellow directors who include John Mayo, finance director of GEC, and Denis Cassidy, no mug despite his recent record at Liberty, Messrs Hall and Shepherd should be careful. Though they control 65 per cent of the shares between them, the danger is their careless talk could cost revenue. That may be the point at which insulting supporters becomes unacceptable to institutional investors.

But what can be done? An elegant solution would be to find a way of taking a large part — if not all — of this stake off the hands of the duo. It would be suprising if some of these high-powered non-executives and the club's financial advisors, NatWest Markets, were not working hard to find such a buyer.

This would sever the emotional tie the Hall family has had with Newcastle United since Douglas's father — Sir John Hall — rescued the club in the early-1990s. But the parlous state of the famous football club in those days shows how fickle the game can be. With the team dangerously near the Premiership relegation zone, decisive leadership from the board room is essential.

Left on the shelf

THE battle to get designer brands onto supermarket shelves seems destined for Europe. The Office of Fair Trading could apparently find no way to justify intervening in a situation so ostensibly unfair. Yet the grocers should beware. A presence on the supermarket shelf could dent the desirability of expensive products. In that case, the stores may find themselves having to offer even bigger discounts than they intended.

RJB Mining share sale prompts City concern

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

CONCERN about the long-term future of RJB Mining resurfaced yesterday after Scottish Widows unloaded 3.5 million shares, plunging the share price to its lowest level since coal privatisation.

At 85p RJB's share price is now only a quarter of its value when the company issued new shares to buy the bulk of the English and Welsh collieries from the Government a little more than over three years ago.

It is a mere 13 per cent of the value of RJB's highest share price two years ago before the crisis over potential large-scale pit closures hit the industry. The business is now valued at just £123 million.

Scottish Widows sold its shares at 80p a share. They were acquired by PDFM, which now owns 17.5 per cent of the business.

Charles Kernot, mining analyst at Paribas, said: "This indicates that some people are getting to the stage that they are very concerned about the future state of the UK coal market."

The Government is currently conducting an energy review to determine a future for the coal industry after the shrinking market from the electricity generators threatened the closure of eight pits and the loss of 5,000 jobs.

The Department of Trade and Industry is attempting to put pressure on Germany and Spain to take coal imports from Britain, but most industry observers believe that this will prove to be a fruitless exercise.

RJB is due to report its year-end financial results on April 7. In 1996 the company earned pre-tax profits of £189 million on turnover of £1.3 billion. Its 1997 profits are expected to be between £172 million and £195 million, significantly more than its current market capitalisation.

RJB has concluded new agreements with Eastern Electricity and National Power for the supply of coal for a minimum of three years. RJB will supply four million tonnes of coal a year to Eastern and up to 18 million tonnes to National Power over a three-year period.

JBA cuts the final dividend

BY MARTIN BARROW

JBA HOLDINGS, the software company that issued a profits warning in February, is cutting its final dividend after confirming that pre-tax profits fell to £5.2 million last year from £11.3 million.

Profits fell despite a revenue rise to £221.7 million (£161.8 million). Alan Vickery, chairman, said that strong results from the main specialist industry markets could not compensate for a flat performance in the general market and the cost of increased investment.

Mr Vickery said 1997 was "a bittersweet year". JBA shares rose 2½p to 645p yesterday. They traded at £12.57 before the profits warning.

The final dividend is cut to 3.5p (4p) a share, leaving an unchanged total of 5.1p. Earnings fell to 10.12p (18.26p).

Stevenson to join Equitas

BY JON ASHWORTH

HUGH STEVENSON, departing chairman of Mercury Asset Management (MAM), is chairman-designate of Equitas, the reinsurance company whose creation was central to the survival of the Lloyd's insurance market.

He starts full time in November, replacing David Newbigging, one-time head of Jardine Matheson in Hong Kong, who last year said he would be winding down his Equitas responsibilities. Mr Stevenson, 55, was appointed chairman of MAM in 1992 after 22 years with SG Warburg, where he was one of the three managing directors of the firm's investment banking business. He agreed to stay on at MAM to oversee the integration with Merrill Lynch, which bought MAM for £3.1 billion.

Fortnum & Mason hit by strength of sterling

BY MARTIN BARROW

THE Queen's favourite grocer yesterday became the latest victim of the strong pound. Fortnum & Mason said foreign tourists were shying away from its posh Piccadilly store, opting to spend their hard-earned dollars, drachmas, liras and pesos at more downmarket shops in Central London.

The company, whose chairman is Garry Weston, also continues to be dogged by that most common of ailments — building work. A delay in its redevelopment programme means Fortnums continues to trade from reduced space on four floors.

As a result Fortnums' pre-tax profits fell to £2.01 million in the six months to January 24 from £2.48 million in the first half of the previous year, and Mr Weston gave warning that full-year profits will fall substantially below the £3.23 million earned last time. The first interim dividend is held at 4.3p a share.

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Expensive mystery of capital's strangest vacant possession

Fraser Nelson looks at why the East End's answer to Covent Garden never flowered







Lawrie Cohen regarded Tobacco Dock as London's most unusual site — 19 years and £47 million later, some say it still is. It was due to open on completion of phase one in 1987, so said the hoarding. It took until 1989 when recession was coming

In 1975 a professional medieval jouster returned to London after a disastrous tour of South Africa. He was looking for a permanent venue to lay on shows for tourists and came across a disused warehouse in the East End.

It was a Grade I listed ruin: home to squatters, a few dogs and two mechanics who dismantled lorries there as an illegal scam. But to Lawrie Cohen, a civil engineer by training, Tobacco Dock had all the qualities he was seeking. "The whole place looked like something out of a Hammer Horror film," he recalls. "But I thought it just had to be the most unusual property in London."

Nineteen years, £47 million and one recession later, Tobacco Dock is still the most unusual property in London. It has been stunningly restored as a luxury shopping mall but is almost completely, eerily deserted. Signs for Monsoon and Next hang like gravestones above its glass offices. Its only tenants are a sandwich shop and a yuppie bar. Melody FM is piped through radio speakers 24 hours a day and echoes to the lack of listeners.

Downstairs, an immaculate suite, decked with fresh flowers and regularly manned, claims to be the letting office, although the testimony to its failure is all around. Equally spookily, the permanently empty 120-slot car park is supervised by a parking lieutenant who presumably has not issued a ticket in years.

Two fake pirate ships are still kept in immaculate condition behind Henry's, the bar. One was meant to be a wax museum to pull in the crowds, the other was intended to be a pub. The complex could be a deserted film set, although the pirate ships and modern shopfronts indicate a confused screenplay.

Adding to the sense of unreality, Tobacco Dock is kept spotless, with not a scrap of litter anywhere in its 140,000 square feet. Hawks are let loose in its rafters to scare away pigeons. It has been floodlit, manicured, advertised and subsidised — but why?

To think that Tobacco Dock could ever have been the East End's answer to London's Covent Garden seems laughable now — but that's exactly the vision that persuaded Mr Cohen to ditch his jousting career in 1980.

An Eastender himself, he had watched the area recede into an economic abyss after the docks closed in the 1960s. It was then owned by property companies ready to sell to anyone with a half-decent business proposal and the right price. Mr Cohen joined forces with Brian Jackson, who quit one of the development companies, so enthused was he by the idea of rejuvenating the ramshackle site. Over several years they found architects, a few interested retailers, and all they needed was a bank willing to lend the £450,000 to buy the site and then many millions to develop it.

In 1986 competition emerged in the shape of Rupert Murdoch, who stunned Fleet Street and its trade unions by suddenly decamping News International's newspapers, including *The Times*, to a disused rum warehouse right next door to Tobacco Dock.

Mr Cohen was told that Mr Murdoch had been granted permission to demolish a substantial chunk of Tobacco Dock. He was given three months to come up with the money or much of the site would be reduced to rubble.

In desperation, he gave up on the banks and turned to the construction companies who were then doing good business redeveloping disused docks and had cash to burn. In no time he had signed up Harry Neal, a local builder, who agreed to stump up most of the £450,000. "It was victory at the eleventh hour," said Mr Cohen.

The banks swooned and Mr Cohen found himself with a harem of willing backers. Financiers shared his vision, perhaps influenced by the growing penchant of Japanese investors for paying extravagantly for London properties. NatWest lent him £22 million before he had signed a single retail tenant. With extra help from a £3 million government grant, the scheme was ready to roll.

But problems started almost immediately. Downstream lay Canary Wharf, another disused dockland area then being developed by Olympia & York into the centrepiece of London's brave new world. This created heavy demand for Harry Neal's builders, who preferred working for £800 a week on Canary Wharf to laying slates on a 19th-century ruin.

As fewer and fewer turned up for work at Tobacco Dock, the entire project fell into slow motion and the 1987 opening target passed without event. When the red ribbon was finally cut in spring 1989, the best years of the retail boom had passed.

On opening day, only 32 of the 55 shop units had been let. The recession that ensued ensured tenants did not queue up to fill the vacant space.

Builders are the first to profit from any economic boom, and the first to suffer in a downturn. Although Tobacco Dock did what Mr Cohen insists was reasonable trade for three years, hosting candlelit dinners in the vaults by night and serving shoppers by day, the rental income was not enough to service the debt.

The bankers lost patience in November 1990 and called in their security — Tobacco Dock. A new buyer was found within months and Mr Cohen was asked to leave.

The new owner, from Kuwait, had ideas of its own about how to generate income from the extraordinary East London property. Bisley Properties, part of a mysterious Arab-controlled trust, proposed to expel the high street names and transform Tobacco Dock into a "factory shopping mall", a concept imported from the US.

Their idea was to sell designer goods at a sharp discount so people would venture as far afield as Wapping. But Bisley needed a retailer — someone who knew the British scene and could act on a consultancy basis to get the scheme off the ground. One shopkeeper was immediately available.

Gerald Ratner was down on his luck in 1992. The year before, an ill-advised description of one of his jewellery company's sherry decanters left him without a job and had made him a standing joke in the City.

When Bisley contacted him through his auditors, he needed little persuading. "It came at a very good time for me," he says. "Bisley were great guys — they gave me a job at a time few other people would have and I was grateful."

As a retail site, Tobacco Dock had three main problems: location, location and location. It may have been 300 metres from London's main East approach, but it was sunk below eye level. From the outside, it still looked like a brick warehouse.

Still, Mr Ratner says he succeeded in finding half a dozen retailers willing to give the factory outlet idea a try — but to his amazement, every client he lined up was rejected.

He said the most surprising refusal was of Ciro Citterio, an up-and-coming menswear designer. "They were ideal," says Mr Ratner. "They had lots of nice suits and were very keen to go in. I just couldn't understand it." A few years ago he gave up trying to fill the centre and left to concentrate his efforts on running a health centre.

Mr Ratner cannot offer an explanation for the apparently enforced emptiness of the site. Industry observers try to make an economic argument for it, saying it was well known that the Arabs had picked up Tobacco Dock for under £15 million. Some sources suggest it was closer to £8 million. For a complex which cost £47 million to build, a £20 million takeover offer could be enough to cover the costs of finance and upkeep for five years and yield a profit. Perhaps Bisley feels that level of price will be most easily achieved if it can sell the property with vacant possession, an empty shell which a new owner could turn to his own purpose, be it zoo, shopping complex or entertainment centre.

Mr Ratner had spoken to Warner Brothers about opening a multiplex cinema on the site, and planning permission was granted three years ago. That is where the idea stopped. Now, Virgin plans to open one of its cinemas a mile away.

Bisley will answer no questions. Its advisers plead that it "does not want any publicity at the moment". Perhaps this is because it faces a court case next month as Giovanni Gurrieri, an Italian restaurateur, claims that he was forced out in 1993 after spending £250,000 converting one of the vaults. "We had very high-class people in our restaurant, but when the Arabs came they scared everyone away," declares Signor Gurrieri. "When I go to court, I will take them all the way."

Mr Cohen, now 51, still has ambitions to rescue his site. He says he wishes he had stuck to his original plan and turned the whole place into a jousting park. "I could have been running one of the biggest tourist attractions in London," he muses, "but instead I've become a wounded, retired Jewish property developer. It breaks my heart to see it so empty; and if we had built it on time, maybe it wouldn't be. But if you don't deliver, the world's a bit cruel."

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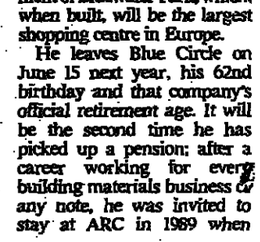
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Lines are open 8am to 8pm weekdays, 9am to 4pm weekends

Fear of God for Smiths Industries

IN THE HOT SEAT



Born: July 15, 1937
Educated: Newcastle High School, Staffordshire; St John's College, Cambridge
1961: Tarmac Civil Engineering
1972: Area manager, ARC
1981: President, ARC America
1987: Chief executive, ARC
1989: Director, Consolidated Gold Fields
1990: President, Blue Circle America
1992: Chief executive, Blue Circle
1998: Chairman-elect, Smiths Industries

Lunch with Keith Orrell-Jones, chief executive of Blue Circle Industries, can be a challenging affair. Every remark, however throwaway, is subjected to intense and incisive analysis. It is rather like a tutorial with a particularly rigorous professor. Orrell-Jones does not cut a great deal of intellectual slack.

One City analyst, understandably not wishing to be named, sums it up thus: "There are certain people you come across that you respect but wouldn't want to work with because they put the fear of God into you."

If this perception is a fair one, then from November the fear of God arrives at Smiths Industries, the engineering group that is largely the creation of one man. Sir Roger Hurn becomes non-executive chairman of an even bigger engineer, GEC, at the end of this year after a long courtship.

This week Orrell-Jones, 60, was named Hurn's successor as part-time chairman, having been a non-executive director since 1992. He takes over at a time when tough decisions need to be made.

Growth and improvement in margins has brought the rewards of a huge City fan base and a place in the FTSE 100 index, although this last may be in jeopardy next time the index is reshuffled if Smiths shares continue to fall.

Interim figures this week disappointed some; analysts wonder whether the company will have to make some big purchases to maintain momentum. In the past, Smiths has avoided hostile deals in favour of smaller bolt-ons that are ruthlessly scrutinised before they are completed. Larger purchases would inevitably be more risky. Such risks would have to be taken by Orrell-Jones along with Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, chief executive for the past two years.

"I don't think the company has been under external pressure," he says. "If the record were to falter in some way, eyebrows would be raised. But the pressure is self-imposed."

As to the shares' recent bout of underperformance, he says the engineering sector has been under a cloud and Smiths has been tarred with the same brush. Any company that sees 12 per cent of earnings coming from abroad is going to suffer from the strong pound.

He does not accept that Hurn's departure represents a watershed for Smiths. "I've never been at a company that wasn't perceived as being at a crossroads. The challenge is to maintain the rate of growth Smiths has seen in recent years. If you want to accelerate growth, then slightly larger acquisitions than have been done in the past are on the table. But I wouldn't go for the Big Bang theory."

Orrell-Jones, as we have seen, is respected by the City, if not always warmed to. "Focused, assertive, disciplined, single-minded, dispassionate" are the words used. "There's a degree of arrogance there that's based on quiet self-confidence. He's top quartile management," says the analyst. "I actually like him, but there's a view in the industry that he was a difficult person to work with, and found it easy to get rid of people."

He has a reputation as a cost-cutter, both at ARC, the building products group owned by Consolidated Gold Fields, where he was chief executive, and at Blue Circle's US operations, which he ran for two years before becoming chief executive in October 1992.

At Blue Circle, this cost-cutting extended to a ground-breaking three-year pay deal with its UK workforce that will knock £10 million a year off costs by the end of the decade. He extended the company's geographical spread to Canada, Chile and further into the Far East, while the 1990s have brought windfall profits from Blue Circle's Kent property assets, including a potential £115 million made from the development of Bluewater Park, which, when built, will be the largest shopping centre in Europe.

He leaves Blue Circle on June 15 next year, his 62nd birthday and that company's official retirement age. It will be the second time he has picked up a pension; after a career working for every building materials business of any note, he was invited to stay at ARC in 1989 when



Orrell-Jones: challenge

Hanson bought ConsGold. But this would have meant surrendering half of his job in Hanson's American arm, so he took early retirement at 52.

Most people, taking on a part-time role at such an age, would have a clear idea how long they would stay. But Orrell-Jones insists he has no firm plans except to continue until he is no longer making a contribution.

Because of leaks in the weekend press, his appointment had to be brought forward. It reached the Stock Exchange screens the very minute the Chancellor stood up to deliver his Budget and was, understandably, largely overlooked. He is philosophical. "I'm not too worried about moments of glory."

MARTIN WALLER

Pension fun

OH, WHAT fun we had in Eastbourne, where the National Association of Pension Funds this week enlivened — I think that is the word — the town whose only boast is the highest mortality rate in the country. It would not be fair to name the two distinguished delegates who were caught racing around their hotel lobby in a pair of stolen wheelchairs. Quite late at night, too. Sheer animal high spirits, I expect.

But what of Nicola Horlick, joint chief executive of SocGen Asset Management? She breezed into the conference to remind fund managers that their job is to beat the benchmark, not interfere in the management of companies. This should be left to pressure groups and even the media "even if you don't like what they say about you". What on earth can she be referring to? Then she used the conference to publicise SocGen's first big business win, an unnamed big UK pension fund.

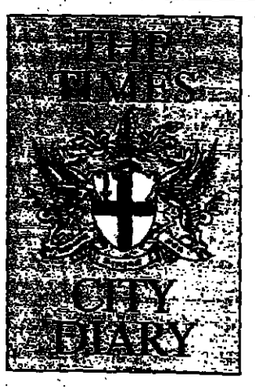
☐ *THIS is a new one. After some rotten figures and a January profit warning, John Toyne, the managing director of United Carriers, has left "to pursue a long-held ambition to develop a literary career". I wonder whether this cryptic statement might be in some way connected with the departure of his predecessor, Allan Binks two years ago "to pursue other business interests". Which was perhaps not a phrase they could use second time around.*

Hard cash

THE latest in a long line of money gurus is heading for our shores. This one is a German millionaire, one Bodo Schäfer, and he is holding lectures next month in Bolton and Birmingham. It is not quite get-rich-quick time, and he is nothing to do with that Titan pyramid selling lot from Germany who caused such trouble a while back — I checked. But he claims to teach people how to raise their income by 20 per cent a year.

His qualifications are that at age 26 he was heavily in debt, and he is now rich. What I am still not clear about, after quite a long conversation with Herr Schäfer, is just how he made his pile. He talks vaguely of being befriended by a much richer "financial coach", a bit of import-export work and some consultancy work. "The first £100,000 is always the hardest."

☐ *I BEAR grave news of a serious breach of parliamentary standards, and from our dour, Presbyterian Chancellor. Gordon Brown lied to the House, and in the Budget statement, to boot, and so in front of the nation. A reader rings to point out that the Chancellor said that the pensioners' fuel allowance had been paid. Except that it has not, because some slip-up means most recipients must wait until the end of this month. I raise the matter with the Treasury, but all I get is an embarrassed silence.*



Title changes

THE world of magazines is a fast-moving one. The Periodical Publishing Association is having its annual jamboree in May, and the invitations have gone out. Alas, already yesterday's fish and chip paper, because no fewer than three featured industry bigwigs have seen abrupt changes of career since the publication of the brochure. David Arculus is, of course, no more a director of United News & Media, but is working out his notice while wondering what life holds in store as chairman of rival IPC.

And IPC this week lost publishing director Heather Love, off to work with her husband, although this will not stop her being one of the judges at the industry awards. Also slotted in as a speaker is Paul Camp, chief executive of Haymarket. Michael Heseltine's publishing firm. Except that he isn't any more.

MARTIN WALLER



MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Share euphoria helps to push GEC to record high

SHARES of mighty GEC rounded off a remarkable week on a firm note with the price adding 3½p to close at a record high of 463½p.

It stretches the rise on the week to 39¾p and means more than £1 billion has been added to the defence and electronic giant's stock market price tag of £11.7 billion.

The rise was fuelled by reports on Monday in *The Times* suggesting that the group may be poised to bid for assets to be sold by Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman as part of their proposed merger. This was a cause taken up later in the week by Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, which was recommending the shares to clients as a "buy".

There is little in either case to justify such a dramatic rise in the share price. But it does highlight the current euphoria which continues to drive the equity market to new record highs on almost a daily basis — much to the delight of City investors generally.

But yesterday's assault on the 6,000 faltered after a volatile session that produced a swing of 224-points in the space of just 15 minutes. Prices had enjoyed an early mark up on the back of a positive performance overnight on Wall Street that saw the FTSE 100 index surge through the 6,000 level for the first time.

But the market dropped 117-points as it faced up to the "triple-witching" hour and the expiry of the March series of futures and options. Within the space of 15 minutes share prices had reversed their losses to stand 107 points higher.

The volatility was blamed on rogue prices in BG which forced calculation of the index to be suspended for five minutes. Several private investors saw their stock sold at 224½p when the ruling price should have been about 300p. BG closed unchanged at 299½p.

In the event, the market failed to hold onto its gains and eventually went into reverse ending 41.6 down at 5,956.3, but still 174-points up on the week. Total turnover stretched to more than a billion shares.

Dixons put up an impressive performance, up 16p at 497½p, on its last day as a constituent of the top 100 shares. It met three brokers for a run-down of current business conditions on Thursday. The electrical retailer appears to have dispelled any fears about a further deterioration of trading conditions. Nick Bubb, of Société Générale Securities, was one of the three brokers granted an audience. He is now reckoned to be recommending the shares to clients.

Dixons will be replaced in the index on Monday by **Compass**, up 29p at 988p, which is still seen as a takeover target for **Rentokil Initial**; 2½p better at 341½p.

British Telecom retreated 4p to 681p after the company played down a report that it is in talks with several big players in the US market. It follows comments made by Robert Brace, finance director, at a conference in New York on Thursday. BT's proposed merger with MCI foundered last year after WorldCom stepped in with a higher offer.

P&O Deferred rose 11p to 880p after completing the sale of the Arndale Centre in Machester to the **Prudential Corporation** for £315 million. The group is due to unveil full-year results next week.

Hazlewood Foods stood out with a rise of 9p at 204½p as a party of brokers began a tour of the group's pasta making factory in Warrington. On Thursday, night the broker gave a presentation to brokers over dinner in London. The brokers are likely to upgrade their profit forecasts for the current year. Earlier this week, **Geest**, up 7½p at 505p, reported that its own chilled food operation had proved the driving force behind a 41 per cent hike in profits.

There was savage retribution for **Parkland Group** with the shares tumbling 37½p to a new low of 71p after issuing a profits warning.

Wassall fell 9p to 309p after HSBC James Capel, the broker, turned cautious and downgraded it's recommendation for the shares to "sell". The fast-growing industrial conglomerate stands well below this year's peak of 390p.

The market was forced to digest a clutch of bid approaches including one for the **Savoy Hotel** whose A shares responded with a leap of 255p at £17.50. It comes after reports that two US companies were ready to battle for control of the business. Last night trustees of the Savoy appeared split over whether to accept the terms. **Granada**, which owns a 60 per cent of Savoy shares, but less than 50 per cent of the votes after its acquisition of Forte a few years back, climbed 39p to £10.35. It has attracted "buy" recommendations from SBC Warburg Dillon Read, Lehman Brothers and ABN Amro Hoare Govett.

A bid approach boosted AIM-listed **Chemical Design Holdings** 31½p to 125p. The company carries a price tag of £8.25 million.

News of a heavily discounted agreed bid left **UK Safety** nursing a loss of 2¾p at 4¾p. The offer of 2½p a share from a management buyout vehicle values the business at just £1.01 million. The terms are 67 per cent below Thursday's closing price of 7.5p.

There was muted response to news of a bid approach for **Vero Group**, 3½p dearer at 122½p. The mechanical and electronic components specialist says it has received an informal approach at a level not much higher than the ruling price. At these levels the group is capitalised at £71.5 million.

□ **GILT EDGED:** Bond prices staged a technical rally, clawing back much of Thursday's sharp falls. But trading conditions were described as thin with investors continuing to ponder the week's events. In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt finished £1 5/32 higher at £108 3/16, while in the cash market Treasury 9 per cent 2008 rose £½ to £109 13/16.

□ **NEW YORK:** The Dow Jones industrial average beat a choppy path to be up 35.62 points, at 8,838.67, by midday, amid volatile triple-witching trade, while selling driven by warnings of depressed profits dented the Nasdaq.



John Simons, of Hazlewood Foods, up 9p at 204½p

City speculators chased Securicor 19p, or 4.8 per cent, higher to a new peak of 413p. The company continues to sit on the 40 per cent stake in Cellnet that its joint partner, British Telecom, would love to get its hands on. The stake is reckoned to be worth more than £1 billion. A deal cannot be far away.

	Current price	Week's change	
GEC	463½p	+39¾p	Possible acquisition
Savoy 'A'	£17.50	+320p	Bid approaches
Parkland Group	71p	-35½p	Profits warning
Chemical Design	125p	+44½p	Bid approach
Perpetual	£38.40	+238p	Budget proposals
London Clubs	222p	-48p	Raising gambling levy
Prism Rail	461½p	+50½p	End of AIM tax relief
Whitecross Group	137½p	+38p	Bid approach
Racal Electronics	318p	+27p	Bid speculation

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 8838.67 (+35.62)
S&P Composite 1092.21 (+2.47)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 16830.47 (+151.45)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11564.23 (+119.19)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 1120.98 (+19.29)

Sydney:
AO 2775.2 (+2.6)

Frankfurt:
DAX 5001.55 (+65.23)

Singapore:
Straits 1679.11 (+19.64)

Brussels:
General 17505.70 (+209.30)

Paris:
CAC-40 3688.91 (+0.23)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 1482.20 (+20.60)

London:
FT 30 3771.5 (-25.2)
FTSE 100 5956.3 (-41.6)
FTSE 250 5516.0 (+49.6)
FTSE 350 2860.8 (-11.5)
FTSE Eurotop 100 2748.83 (+26.36)
FTSE All-Share 2788.02 (-9.31)
FTSE Non Financials 2753.57 (-0.66)
FTSE Fixed Interest 140.60 (-0.28)
FTSE Govt Secs 104.19 (+0.49)
Bargains 111740
SEAQ Volume 1067.6m
US$ 1.6648 (-0.0029)
German Mark 3.0536 (+0.0067)
Exchange Index 104.7 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.5380
£:SDR 1.2410
RPI 160.3 Feb (3.4%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 158.5 Feb (2.6%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Advent 2 VCT	100	...
BGR	247½	- 1½
Bass B	95	- 2½
Eurotunnel 01/03 Wts	5½	- ½
Guardian IT	441	- 1½
Hartford Grp	2¾	...
Monsoon	195	...
Oxford Asymmetry	456½	- 1
Peel Hotels	78½	...
Pennant Intl	162½	- 2
Quadrant Hlthcre	143½	+ 12
Quester VCT 2	90	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Paragon n/p (180)	42½	+ 14
Pex n/p (3)	½	...
Westbury n/p (235)	21	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Innovative Tech 120p (+12½p)
Somerfield 331½p (+33p)
Kwik Save 381½p (+36p)
Quadrant Health 143½p (+12p)
Acorn 175p (+10½p)
Grainger 345p (+20p)
Parity 804p (+46½p)
Fired Earth 321½p (+18p)
Molins 296p (+15½p)
Wickes 315½p (+16p)

FALLS:
AB Food 615p (-43p)
Biocomps Intl 154p (-10p)
Helphire Gp 382½p (-21p)
EMI 521p (-26½p)
Next 705p (-33p)
Br Airways 593p (-25p)
Scot & New 873p (-36p)
Blacks Leis 432½p (-17p)
Boots 901p (-34p)
Chelsfield 377p (-12p)
Ryl Bk Scot 943p (-27p)
Rio Tinto 795p (-19p)
Norwich Union 468p (-11p)
Br Land 785p (-18p)
Royal & Sun Al 787p (-18p)
Cantab Pharms 680p (-15p)
Lloyds TSB 961p (-21p)

Closing Prices Page 26

TEMPUS

Granada set to check out

GERRY ROBINSON and Charles Allen have a formidable track record for delivering above average returns at Granada. The profits growth from businesses they have acquired — notably Sutcliffe Catering, ITV and Forte — have been well above industry norms.

Although the share price has almost doubled since the group swooped on Forte, the market has not been particularly generous of late, despite a strong set of results in November and strong trading in media, hotels and catering. Before yesterday, the shares were only 70p up on this time last year.

What has become clear is that turning businesses around and running them profitably is not enough: the market has come to expect deals. Hence the 39p jump in the shares to £10.35 on yesterday's news that a sale of its 68 per cent stake in the Savoy Group is in prospect. The £300 million expected from that compares with a book value of just under £260 million. And if, as it hopes, it can get another £300 million-plus by selling Grosvenor House to the same buyer, it will have completed the post-Forte sale process way beyond original expectations. Only rental will remain in the out-tray.

Further deals are not so obvious, although rumours persist that Méridien Hotels will soon go. More likely, though, is a move to bolster Méridien by making an acquisition in Asia where prices are cheap. Sutcliffe Catering, too, is a candidate for overseas expansion, although opportunities are limited. Of course, Messrs Robinson and Allen could launch a bid for Compass Group, the contract caterer where they established their reputations. On current form, the City might well back them.

Johnson

THE City liked the latest results from Johnson Group Cleaners, lifting the shares 31½p, or 11 per cent, to 306½p. Although pre-tax profit fell modestly, stripping out the exceptionals shows underlying profit rose 8 per cent to £20.1 million.

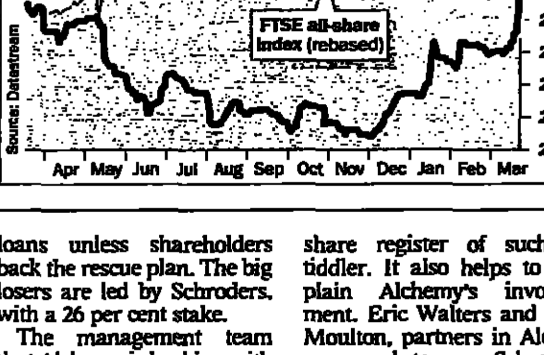
The performance of the continuing businesses is more encouraging still. Johnson claims it is the largest retail drycleaner in both the UK and the US. Perhaps an easy boast in a fragmented industry, but UK drycleaning increased its profits by 19 per cent to £6.1 million, while the smaller US chain improved by 16 per cent to £2.3 million. The group was held back by the US clothing rental business, where profits fell 27 per cent but that has now been sold.

US drycleaning margins have improved, but at 4.4 per cent are still trailing the 8.5 per cent achieved in the UK.

Apparelmaster, the UK clothing rental business, increased profits 7 per cent to £12.7 million, still a 23.4 per cent margin in a supposedly competitive market.

Johnson has made its move to make money from changing the towels in company washrooms. That brings it up against the likes of Rentokil Initial, but the continued growth of outsourcing should restrict the risks.

Charterhouse Tilney expects Johnson to make pre-tax profits of £22.3 million, putting the shares on a multiple of 11 times forecast earnings. That seems fair.



UK Safety

DOWN at the bottom of the stock market, a remarkable deal is about to take place. UK Safety, a maker of army boots and industrial footwear, is hoping to escape its desperate financial problems by accepting a takeover offer from a management buyout team. At 2½p per share, the offer is pitched at one-third of yesterday's opening share price, valuing the whole company at a princely £1 million. Advisers to the deal, among them Alchemy Partners, Albert E Sharp and KPMG Corporate Finance, will pick up fees of about £500,000.

UK Safety is so strapped for cash that it cannot even afford the redundancies that might offer it some hope of survival. Losses last year of £900,000 have left the company with gearing of about 400 per cent. It continues to trade solely thanks to the indulgence of the Bank of Scotland, which is threatening to call in its £11 million of loans unless shareholders back the rescue plan. The big losers are led by Schroders, with a 26 per cent stake.

The management team that Alchemy is backing with £7.5 million is headed by John Newman, who has spent ten years trying to make money out of UK Safety. That period has seen sharp falls in the number of miners and soldiers that wear its boots. Making them in Bristol has left UK Safety poorly placed to fight off cheap foreign competition.

This sorry tale begins with another, earlier buyout, from Ward White in 1988. That deal loaded the then much bigger business with £30 million of debt. UK Safety has never been able to escape this burden, even when five years ago it reversed into TSW, the old South-West television company.

It was Schroder Ventures that backed the Ward White buyout, which explains why one of the City's premier investment houses is on the share register of such a tiddler. It also helps to explain Alchemy's involvement. Eric Walters and Jon Moulton, partners in Alchemy, used to run Schroder Ventures and they still retain a modest (increasingly modest) financial stake in UK Safety. Mr Walters was an obvious person to call when UK Safety started to search for help.

Even with its debts cut to more reasonable levels, UK Safety faces a tough future. Import penetration in industrial footwear is still rising rapidly, and prospects for its 430 employees look grim. Mr Newman intends to move increasingly into workwear and industrial clothing.

Remarkably, UK Safety's shares continue to trade above the offer price, ending yesterday at 4¾p. Apparently, a rival bidder is still pondering an offer. Hope springs eternal among the penny share merchants.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	1076-1069	May	1166-1164
May	1088-1087	Jul	1183-1179
Jul	1099-1098	Sep	1202-1200
Sep	1114-1112	Dec	unq
Dec	1133-1132		
Mar	unq		Volume: 7564

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	unq	Nov	1630 SLR
May	1718-1715	Jan	1608-1600
Jul	1688-1685	Mar	unq
Sep	1657-1653		Volume: 2651

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	280.8-78.6
Spot: 273.6		Mar	282.8-80.8
May	273.3-72.8	May	285.8-83.8
Aug	275.4-74.6	Aug	291.3-86.8
Oct	278.7-77.6		Volume: 4615

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 19

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	78.35	101.59	87.69
(+/-)	+2.64	+10.62	+0.80
Eng/Wales:	78.35	102.05	86.54
(+/-)	+2.64	+10.23	+1.24
(%)	-12.0	+11.0	-3.0
Scotland:	unq	100.35	91.42
(+/-)	...	+12.74	-1.37
(%)	...	+62.0	+11.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	12.45	-0.05
Brent 15 day (May)	13.25	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Jun)	13.60	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (May)	14.60	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	14.95	-0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	145 (+12)	148 (+13)
Gasoil EEC	123 (+1)	124 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	61 (n/c)	63 (n/c)
Naphtha	132 (n/c)	133 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	123.50-23.75	Jul	132.50-32.75
May	125.75-26.00	Aug	135.50-36.00
Jun	129.00-29.25		Vol: 12933

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	13.20-13.21	Aug	14.22-14.26
Jun	13.56-13.58	Sep	14.50-14.60
Jul	13.90-13.92		Vol: 38652

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	73.35	Mar	73.50
May	74.85	May	75.00
Jul	76.90	Sep	74.00
Sep	75.75	Nov	76.00
Nov	77.75	Jan	78.00
Volume: 562		Volume: 0	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	69.0	64.0
May	72.0	71.0
Jun	unq	81.0
		Volume: 68

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Apr 47.75-48.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 98	1010	1000	1000
Apr 98	1026	1015	1015
May 98	1030	1022	1025
Jul 98	960	940	960
Vol: 244 lots		Open Interest: 1584	

Index 1035 -11

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1741.0-1741.5	1767.0-1768.0	1621875
Lead ($/tonne)	557.50-558.00	556.00-557.00	297200
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1040.0-1041.0	1066.0-1066.5	666150
Tin ($/tonne)	5435.0-5445.0	5435.0-5440.0	18520
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1430.5-1431.0	1458.0-1459.0	1799875
Nickel ($/tonne)	5415.0-5420.0	5760.0-5780.0	120336

TRADED OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
ASDA	200	13	22½	29½	4	9½	14
(*209½)	220	4	12½	20	13½	19½	24½
Abbey Nat	1150	67	122	158½	37½	71½	94
(*1178½)	1200	41½	97	134	55½	95	118½
All&Leic	900	43	76	98	25½	55½	67½
(*916½)	950	19½	53	74	59	83	94
Alld Dom	560	41½	62½	76	8½	27	30½
(*582)	600	14½	38	50½	31	51½	55½
BAA	550	51	67½	79½	4½	17½	23½
(*596)	600	16½	38	51½	20½	37½	43
BAT Ind	600	42½	71	81½	14½	33½	43
(*641)	650	13½	45	57	37½	57	68
Barclays	1800	90	178	225	42½	100	134½
(*1840)	1900	43½	128	174½	95½	150	183½
Bass	1100	46	82½	101	31½	65½	74
(*1105½)	1150	25	59	76	60½	92½	99½
Boots	900	32½	64	85½	23	49½	61
(*905½)	950	13½	41½	63	53½	78	89
Br Airways	550	51	68½	84	4½	21	27½
(*594)	600	19	40	57½	22	43½	50½
BP	850	41	75	98½	16	40	51½
(*872½)	900	17½	50	73	41½	65½	76
Br Steel	140	12	17	20½	2	9	11½
(*148½)	160	2½	8	11½	12	20½	23
C&W	750	32½	65½	84½	32½	62	75½
(*751)	800	14½	45½	73	64½	91½	102½
CU	1150	69	126½	156½	30	69½	90
(*1183)	1200	42½	102½	131½	54	94½	114
GlaxoW	1600	81½	162	204	40½	94½	130
(*1632½)	1700	39½	112	155½	94½	142½	180½
HSBC	1900	100½	198	254½	61½	124½	168½
(*1932½)	2000	55½	148	205½	116½	175	218½
Halifax	900	58	104	128½	15	38½	52
(*944)	950	34	78	103	34	61½	75½
ICI	1050	51½	96	120½	18	46	68
(*1079)	1100	25	70½	94½	41½	71½	92
Land Sec	1050	63½	91½	119½	18	41½	65
(*1094)	1100	34	64	93	38½	65	78½
M&S	550	38½	52	68½	5½	21½	28
(*579½)	600	10½	27½	44½	25	46	53
Nat Pwr	550	49	70½	84	18	26	36
(*587)	600	20½	45½	58	27	60	61½
Nat West	1100	56½	108½	138	33½	81	88½
(*1118)	1150	33	83	112	60	86	112½
Reuters	600	52½	81½	89½	14	33½	52
(*629½)	650	29½	51½	71	31½	53½	67½
RMiSun	750	59½	92½	113	14	37½	55½
(*789)	800	31½	65½	88½	35½	61	69
Safeway	360	24½	39½	42	7½	23	30
(*377)	390	10½	26½	35	20½	37½	44
Sainsbury	460	44	54	68½	3½	14	18
(*499)	500	17	32	44	15½	30½	35½
Shell	420	23	36	48	6	18½	27
(*436)	460	5½	18½	30	27	40	48½
SmKl Bch	750	42	82	107½	29	54	67½
(*757½)	800	22½	61	84	57	82	94
Std Chart	900	56½	119½	150	48½	85	116
(*905)	950	38	96½	127	77½	121½	142½
Thames W	900	58	83½	98½	10	25½	39
(*947)	950	27	54	71	28½	51½	62
Vodafone	600	40	69½	95	17½	42½	58½
(*621)	650	17½	46	71½	43½	68½	82
Woolwich	360	24½	45	50	6½	20	23½
(*374½)	390	9½	30	37	21	35	38½
Zeneca	2500	105	209	277½	77	138½	176
(*2515½)	2600	60½	158½	226½	132½	189	224½

	Series	Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
BTR	180	25	34	38½	7	11½	14½
(*198½)	200	14	23	28½	14½	20	24½
Blue Circ	360	31	45	59½	18½	29	36
(*376½)	390	17	31	41½	35½	45	51½
Br Aero	1900	125	200	255½	70	117	140
(*1937)	2000	76	148	205½	121½	160	191
Br Telcm	650	60½	83	93½	17	29	42½
(*688)	700	32	55½	68	38½	52	66
Cadbury	800	60	83	98	22	35	44½
(*830½)	850	32	55½	72½	45	58½	67½
Energy Gp	800	44½	45½	50	2½	4	7½
(*839½)	850	7	9½	10½	16½	22	22
Gallaher	330	25½	38½	45	13	21	28½
(*347½)	360	12½	24½	31	29	37	45
GEC	460	25	37½	49½	19½	31½	35½
(*463½)	500	10	21½	33	43½	54½	59

	Series	Calls May			Puts May		
Diageo PLC	613	90½	—	—	5½	—	—
(*701)	671	45	—	—	23	—	—

	Series	Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
Diageo PLC	671	45	74½	—	22½	38½	—
(*701)	720	19	48	—	54½	69½	—
Hanson	360	19½	27	28	20	24½	30½
(*382)	390	8	15	24½	40	43½	48½
Imp Tob	390	33	42	50½	8½	15½	20½
(*412)	420	17	26½	35	21½	30	34½
Kingfshr	1100	75½	112	138	34½	62	84
(*1146½)	1150	48	85	112	58½	76	87
Lasmo	260	22½	34½	38	8½	15½	17½
(*272½)	280	12½	25½	28	16½	24½	28½
Ladbroke	330	25	36½	45½	16	20½	26
(*335)	360	14½	23	32	33½	37½	42½
LucasVar	220	25	33	39	6	12	13
(*237½)	240	13	22½	28½	14	21½	22½
P&O	850	52	74½	89	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*883½)	900	27½	48½	64	51½	63½	75½
Prudentl	900	59½	93½	116	46½	89	85½
(*915½)	950	38	69½	91½	75	95½	111
Rio Tinto	750	75	104½	121½	17½	34	50½
(*797½)	800	45½	77	95½	37½	56	74½
Redland	330	16	16½	—	½	0½	—
(*345)	360	½	0½	—	15½	15½	—
R-Royce	260	21	30½	39½	17	25	28
(*264½)	280	12½	22½	30	28	36	39
Tesco	550	36	55	67	15½	25½	30
(*571½)	600	13½	31½	43	43	52	56
Utd Bisc	260	18	22½	27½	11	15½	19½
(*267)	280	8	14	18½	23½	27	30½

	Series	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Puts Jun	Puts Sep	Puts Dec
BG PLC	283	29½	—	—	11	—	—
(*300½)	300	17½	—	—	21	—	—
BSkyB	420	58½	72½	84½	17	26	33½
(*457½)	460	36	51½	64½	33½	44	53
Br Bio	70	17½	23½	28	9	13	15
(*76)	80	13½	19½	21	15	18½	28½
Centrica	110	11	14½	17	7	8½	10
(*112)	120	7	10½	12½	12	14	15½
Dixons	500	42	59	64	24	37½	42
(*510)	550	22½	37½	48	54	68½	70½
EMI	500	57	73	86	23½	40	48
(*525)	550	33½	50	64	48½	66½	75½
Granada	1000	80½	107½	131	37½	46	57½
(*1036½)	1050	52½	81	104½	50	69½	81
GUS	750	71	92½	104½	25½	36½	50
(*782)	800	44	67	78½	49	66½	73½
Lloyds TSB	950	88	121	149	53	76	92½
(*969½)	1000	63	96½	125	78	101	117½
Lonrho	100	14	18½	—	4½	8	—
(*108½)	110	9	14	—	9	13	—
Norwich	460	38	52½	63	27	35½	43
(*468)	500	20	35	46	50½	58	65½
Orange	420	42	63½	72	33½	47	52½
(*428)	460	27	46	54½	57	69½	74½
Railtrack	1000	77½	102	124½	62	77½	91½
(*1001)	1050	55½	80	101½	88½	105½	119
Scot Pwr	550	63	75½	88	25	33½	39
(*584)	600	37	51	63½	50½	58½	64
Tarmac	110	13	16	16½	3½	4½	7
(*119)	120	8	11	11½	8	9	11½
Tomkins	330	39	46	50½	8	14	16
(*357½)	360	21½	28	34½	18½	26½	29½
Unilever	550	41	56	67	17	24½	31
(*568)	600	19½	33½	42½	44½	57	57

March 20 Total: 40931 Calls: 30433 Puts: 10498

FTSE INDEX (*5876)

Strike	Calls Mar	Calls Apr	Calls May	Calls Jun	Calls Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Apr	Puts May	Puts Jun	Puts Dec
5800	178½	253½	311½	379½	632½	—	62½	106½	152	256
5850	128½	215	275½	351	—	—	75½	121	171	—
5900	78½	178½	248½	317½	572	—	91	141½	190½	294½
5950	28½	147	217	288	—	—	112	163	210	—
6000	—	113	188	258½	510½	25	139½	185	239½	337
6050	—	94½	161½	228½	—	75	161	210½	253	—
6100	—	72½	140	204	452	125	191	240½	281	397½
6150	—	53½	118½	183	—	175	224½	271	310	—

March 20 Total: 13425 Calls: 11303 Puts: 2122 *Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 98	126-06	126-06	126-06	126-04	1
Previous open interest 202967	Jun 98	107-25	108-11	107-23	108-06	53305
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 98	107.47	107.79	107.36	107.68	98961
Previous open interest 209263	Sep 98	107.19	107.19	107.19	107.30	400
Five Year Gilt	Jun 98	102.46	102.56	102.43	102.51	1319
Previous open interest 11272	Sep 98				103.66	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 98	119.16	119.59	119.12	119.49	40661
Previous open interest 141791	Sep 98				119.81	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 98	130.47	130.51	130.35	130.45	1708
	Sep 98	130.38	130.38	130.34	130.38	70
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 98	92.52	92.54	92.51	92.52	13323
	Sep 98	92.63	92.68	92.63	92.65	12352
Previous open interest 842262	Dec 98	92.76	92.82	92.76	92.79	18998
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 98	96.295	96.340	96.285	96.315	107724
Previous open interest 2118571	Sep 98	96.150	96.200	96.150	96.170	82085
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 98	95.31	95.37	95.30	95.36	62005
Previous open interest 896168	Sep 98	95.75	95.82	95.75	95.80	47214
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 98	98.45	98.49	98.41	98.45	16810
Previous open interest 113418	Sep 98	98.27	98.33	98.25	98.27	10721
Three Mth ECU	Jun 98	95.83	95.84	95.82	95.82	2031
Previous open interest 35780	Sep 98	95.82	95.85	95.82	95.83	832
FTSE 100	Mar 98	6000.0	6030.0	5980.0	6041.0	4005
Previous open interest 125570	Jun 98	6075.0	6129.0	6020.0	6039.0	35699

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 8
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 2 Week fixed: 7⅜
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7⅛; 3 mth 7⅛. Sell: 2 mth 7; 3 mth: 7.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	7⅜-7¼	7⅜-7¼	7⅜-7¼	7⅜-7¼	
Sterling Money Rates	7⅜-7¼	7⅜-7⅜	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜
Interbank	7⅜-7¼	7⅜-7⅜	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜
Overnight: open 7⅛, close 4					
Local Authority Deps	7⅛	n/a	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Sterling CDs	7⅜-7¼	7⅜-7⅜	7⅜-7⅜	7⅜-7⅜	7⅜-7⅜
Dollar CDs	5.57	n/a	5.58	5.60	5.71
Building Society CDs	7⅜-7⅜	7⅜-7⅜	7⅜-7⅜	7⅜-7⅜	7⅜-7⅜

TREASURY BILLS: Applics: £523m allotted: £100m; Bids: £98.27% received: 74%; Last week: £98.27% received: 58%; Avge rate: £6.9178% last wk £6.9170%; Next week: £100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5⅝	5⅝-5⅝	5⅝-5⅝	5⅝-4⅞
Deutschemark:	3⅜-3⅜	3⅜-3⅜	3⅜-3⅜	3⅜-3⅜	4-3
French Franc:	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3⅜	3⅜-3⅜	3⅜-3⅜	3¼-2¾
Swiss Franc:	1⅜-⅞	1⅜-1⅛	1⅜-1⅜	1⅜-1⅜	1⅜-⅞
Yen:	⅜-⅛	⅜-⅛	⅜-⅛	⅜-⅛	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $291.10-291.50 Close: $291.60-292.10 High: $292.50-293.00 Low: $291.10-291.50 AM: $291.10 PM: $292.40

Krugerrand: $295.00-297.00 (£178.00-180.00)

Platinum: $413.50 (£248.75) Silver: $5.955 (£3.575) Palladium: $272.25 (£165.58)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 20	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.4305-3.4422	3.4395-3.4422	1¼-1⅛pr	3⅜-3⅝pr
Brussels	62.750-62.989	62.950-62.989	23-18pr	63-56pr
Copenhagen	11.605-11.647	11.634-11.640	⅝-¼pr	1-⅝pr
Dublin	1.2094-1.2176	1.2145-1.2167	17-10pr	58-47pr
Frankfurt	3.0435-3.0537	3.0516-3.0537	1-⅞pr	3-3⅛pr
Lisbon	311.38-312.42	312.16-312.42	¾-⅛pr	2½-2¼pr
Madrid	257.96-258.81	258.56-258.81	66-55pr	202-183pr
Milan	3000.8-3004.2	3000.8-3004.2	54-38pr	155-132pr
Montreal	2.3562-2.3616	2.3592-2.3616	0.57-0.51pr	1.13-1.04pr
New York	1.6606-1.6645	1.6640-1.6645	0.265-0.245pr	0.763-0.732pr
Oslo	12.640-12.677	12.668-12.677	⅛-⅛pr	1¼-1pr
Paris	10.204-10.235	10.228-10.235	⅜-¼pr	1-⅞pr
Stockholm	13.244-13.293	13.267-13.287	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	215.74-217.16	216.95-217.16	1¼-1⅛pr	3½-3⅛pr
Vienna	21.411-21.484	21.468-21.484	⅝-⅜pr	2½-1½pr
Zurich	2.4837-2.4966	2.4935-2.4959	1⅜-1⅛pr	3⅞-3⅝pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5015-1.5026
Austria	12.90-12.91
Belgium (Com)	37.84-37.85
Canada	1.4184-1.4194
Denmark	6.9950-6.9970
France	6.1470-6.1490
Germany	1.8340-1.8350
Hong Kong	7.7475-7.7485
Ireland	1.3672-1.3692
Italy	1803.8-1805.3
Japan	130.19-130.29
Malaysia	3.63-3.65
Netherlands	2.0671-2.0676
Norway	7.6065-7.6115
Portugal	187.66-187.76
Singapore	1.6050-1.6060
Spain	155.33-155.37
Sweden	7.9782-7.9860
Switzerland	1.4990-1.4995

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6622-1.6649
Australia dollar	2.4955-2.4989
Bahrain dinar	0.6195-0.6335
Brazil real*	1.8819-1.8848
China yuan	13.630-13.930
Cyprus pound	0.8775-0.8965
Finland markka	9.1600-9.3010
Greece drachma	532.75-543.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.8725-12.8819
India rupee	64.97-66.27
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5020-0.5130
Malaysia ringgit	6.0312-6.0681
New Zealand dollar	2.9501-2.9556
Pakistan rupee	71.90 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0365-6.1725
Singapore dollar	2.6634-2.6683
S Africa rand (com)	8.2030-8.3720
U A E dirham	6.0400-6.1760

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,100	Land Secs	1,100
AMVESCAP	1,600	Legal & Gn	2,600
ASDA Gp	7,000	Lloyds TSB	12,300
Abbey Ntl	4,100	LucasVarity	7,100
Allnce & Leic	1,900	Marks Spr	9,600
Allied Dom	4,300	NatWst Bk	5,600
AB Foods	1,600	Nat Grid	7,900
BAA	3,100	Nat Power	5,500
BAT Inds	8,800	Next	4,900
BG	23,100	Norwich Un	7,200
BOC	1,300	Nycomed Amr	241
BP	13,700	Orange	2,500
BSkyB	3,600	P & O	2,300
BTR	8,600	Pearson	3,000
BT	20,500	PowerGen	2,000
Bk of Scot	4,600	Prudential	5,300
Barclays	4,300	Railtrack	2,300
Bass	1,600	Rank Group	2,700
Billiton	4,300	Reckitt Col	1,100
Blue Circle	2,200	Reed Intl	5,000
Boots	3,600	Rentokil	6,700
BAe	1,800	Reuters	3,700
BA	4,200	Rio Tinto	3,600
Brit Energy	3,000	Rolls Royce	6,600
British Land	2,200	Royal & Sun	4,000
Brit Steel	7,900	Royal Bk Sct	2,100
Cable Wire	8,700	Safeway	9,700
Cadbury	6,100	Sainsbury	6,000
Carlton Cms	3,500	Schroders	185
Centrica	10,300	Scot & New	1,100
Cm Union	1,900	Scot Power	7,300
Diageo	9,600	Svrn Trent	1,600
Dixons	10,100	Shell Trans	45,000
EMI	3,600	Siebe	1,900
Energy Gp	5,600	SmKl Bch	15,200
Enterpr Oil	1,200	Smiths Inds	2,900
GKN	1,700	Std Chard	3,300
GRE	2,000	*Sun Life*	1,500
GUS	2,500	Tesco	7,700
Gen Acc	1,600	Thames W	860
Gen Elec	11,700	Tomkins	8,400
Glaxo Well	10,800	Unilever	6,700
Granada	4,500	Utd Utilities	1,300
HSBC	4,800	Utd News	1,700
Halifax	7,800	Vodafone	11,900
Hays	886	Whitbread	1,200
ICI	1,600	Wolseley	5,900
Kingfisher	2,600	Wolseley	3,100
LASMO	2,600	Woolwich	5,200
Ladbroke	2,700	Zeneca	2,200

WALL STREET

	Mar 20 midday	Mar 19 close
AMP Inc	41⅞	41¼
AMR Corp	140⅞	142¼
AT & T	65¼	66
Abbott Labs	76⅞	77⅛
Advanced Micro	23⅛	23⅞
Aetna Life	85¼	85⅛
Ahmanson (HF)	79⅛	78⅛
Air Prod & Chem	82⅞	83¼
AirTouch Comm	47¼	46¼
Albertson's	54¼	54⅛
Alcan Aluminm	32⅛	32⅛
Allied Signal	42¼	42⅝
Alum Co of Am	73¾	74¼
Amerada Hess	58¼	58¾
AEP	49¼	49⅛
Amer Express	96¼	97¼
Amer Genl Corp	61⅞	61⅛
Amer Home Pr	89⅞	90¼
Amer Intl	126	126¼
Amer Stores	25⅛	25⅛
Amer Standard	46¼	45¾
Ameritech	47¼	47¼
Amgen	60⅞	61
Amoco	86⅛	85¼
Andrew Corp	30⅞	20¼
Anheuser-Busch	46¼	46⅛
Apple Computer	26¼	26¼
Archer Daniels	22	22⅛
Armco	5⅞	5⅛
Armstrng Wrld	86⅞	86⅛
Asarco	24¼	24⅛
Atl Richfield	79⅞	78⅛
Atmel Corp	14⅛	14¾
Auto Data Pro	69⅞	69¼
Avery Dennison	52⅞	52¼
Avon Products	78⅞	76⅞
Baker Hughes	42¼	41¼
Baltim Gas & El	32¼	31¼
Banc One	63¼	62⅞
BankAmerica	85⅛	85⅞
Bank of NY	64⅞	64¼
Bankers Tr NY	122⅞	123¼
Bausch & Lomb	45⅛	45⅛
Baxter Intl	60¼	59⅛
Becton Dickson	70⅞	70⅞
Bell Atlantic	104¼	103
BellSouth	63¼	62⅞
Best Foods	113¼	112¼
Black & Decker	51⅛	51⅛
Block (H&R)	47¼	47¼
Boeing	52⅛	51⅞
Boise Cascade	36⅛	36⅛
Boston Scien	71¼	71
Bristol Myrs Sq	107⅛	106⅞
Browning Ferris	33⅛	33⅛
Brunswick	34⅛	34⅛
Burlington Nthn	104¼	103¼
CMS Energy Corp	45⅛	45⅛
CSX	59⅛	59⅞
CBS Corp	32⅛	32⅛
Campbell Soup	61	60⅞
Carolina Pwr	44¼	44⅛
Case Corp	68¼	68¼
Caterpillar	55¼	56¼
Central & SW	27⅛	27¼
Champion Intl	55⅛	55⅛
Chase Manhat	136⅞	135¼
Chevron Corp	85⅛	83⅞
Chrysler	43⅞	43⅛
Chubb Corp	79¼	78⅛
Cigna Corp	201¼	201⅞
Citicorp	143¼	145¼
Clorox	89⅛	88¼
Coastal Corp	66⅞	65¼
Coca Cola	75¼	75
Coca Cola Ent	34⅛	34⅞
Colgate-Palm	85⅛	85⅛
Columbia Energy	76⅞	77¼
ColumbiaHCA	30¼	30¼
Compaq Comp	23¼	23⅛
Comp Ass Intl	52⅛	53
Conagra	31⅛	31¼
Cons Edison	46¼	46¼
Cons Nat Gas	54¼	54
Cooper Inds	59¼	59⅞
Corestates	91¼	92⅛
Corning Inc	41⅞	42
C'wide Credit	50⅞	49¼
Crestar Finl	58¼	58⅛
Crown Cork	53¼	52¼
Dana Corp	58¼	58
Dayton Hudson	85⅛	85¼
Deere	61	60⅞
Delta Air Lines	120¼	121⅞
Deluxe Corp	34¼	34⅞
Digital Equip	48⅛	48¼
Dillard Dept St	38⅛	38¼
Disney (Walt)	105⅞	106¼
Dominion Res	41	40¼
Donelley (RR)	40¼	40¼
Dover Corp	38⅞	37¼
Dow Chemical	95⅛	95¼
Dow Jones	50¼	51⅛
Dresser	46¼	44⅞
Duke Energy	60⅛	59⅞
Dun & Bradstreet	34¼	34⅞
Du Pont	68¼	68¼
Eastman Chem	67⅛	67¼
Eastman Kodak	62⅛	62⅛
Eaton Corp	98¼	98⅛
Edison Int	29¼	29⅛
Elect Data Sys	50⅞	50¼
Emerson Elec	64⅛	64
Engelhard Corp	18¼	18⅞
Enron Corp	46⅞	46⅞
Entergy	28¼	28¼
Ethyl Corp	8⅛	8¼
Exxon	65⅞	64⅞
FDX Holding	70¼	71⅛
FMC Corp	74¼	74¼
FPL Group	64⅛	63⅞
Fifth Third Banc	83¼	82⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	83⅞	83⅞
Fluor Corp	50¼	51⅛
Ford Motor	63⅞	62¼
Fort James	45¼	45¼
Fortune Brands	40⅞	40¼
Franklin Res	56¼	55⅛
GTE Corp	59⅛	57⅞
Gannett	67⅛	68¼
Gap Inc Del	46	46¼
Gateway 2000	41⅞	41¼
Gen Dynamics	90⅞	91⅛
Gen Electric	80⅛	80⅞
Gen Mills	75⅛	75¼
Gen Motors	70¼	70¼
Gen Reinsurance	223¼	224¼
Gen Signal	42⅛	43
Genuine Parts	36⅞	36¼
Georgia Pac	66¼	65¼
Gillette	118⅛	116¼
Glaxo Wellc ADR	54¼	54⅞
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Harcourt General	55¼	55¼
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Hercules	49¼	50
Hershey Foods	71¼	71½
Hewlett Packard	62¼	63
Hilton Hotels	32⅞	33⅛
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Homestake Mng	9¼	9⅛
Honeywell	82⅞	84¼
Household Intl	142¼	142⅞
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Ikon Office	34¼	35
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Intel Corp	76¼	77⅛
IBM	102⅛	102⅞
Intl Flav & Fr	46¼	46⅞
Intl Paper	49⅞	50
Jnson & Jnson	74⅞	74¼
Kellogg	43⅞	43⅞
Kerr-McGee	69⅞	69¼
Kimberly-Clark	50⅛	50
Kmart	16⅛	16¼
Knight-Ridder	54¼	54⅞
Lilly (Eli)	66⅛	66⅛
Limited Inc	29⅛	29¼
Lincoln Nat	84⅛	84¼
Litton	59¼	60¼
Liz Claiborne	51⅞	52¼
Lockheed Martin	116⅞	116¼
Louisiana Pac	23⅛	23⅞
MCI Comm	50⅛	50¼
Manpower Inc	40¼	40⅛
Marriott Int	80⅞	80⅞
Marsh & McLnn	90	90⅞
Masco Corp	58⅛	59⅞
May Dept St	61⅞	61⅛
Maytag Corp	47⅛	47¼
McDonalds	51¼	51¼
McGraw Hill	76¼	76¼
Mead Corp	36⅛	36¼
Meditrust Corp	29⅞	29⅞
Medtronic	54¼	54⅛
Mellon Bk	65⅛	65¼
Merck Inc	130¼	130⅞
Mercury Fin	0⅞	0⅞
Merrill Lynch	82¼	83⅛
Microsoft	81⅛	82
Minnesota Mine	93⅞	94⅛
Mirage Resorts	25¼	25¼
Mobil Corp	77¼	75¼
Monsanto	50⅛	52¼
Morgan (JP)	138¼	135⅞
Motorola Inc	54⅞	54¼
Mylan Labs	22⅞	22⅞
Natl Semi	19¼	20
Natl Service Ind	50⅞	50⅞
Navistar Int	34⅞	34⅞
NY Times A	65¼	65⅛
Newmont Mng	28⅛	27⅛
Nike B	43¼	43⅞
NL Industries	16⅞	17
Nordstrom	59⅞	58¼
Norfolk Sthn	40⅞	40
Nthn State Pwr	57¼	57¼
Norwest Corp	43⅛	43¼
Occidental Pet	28⅛	28¼
Office Depot	28	28⅛
Oracle	28¼	29¼
Oryx Energy Co	25⅛	24⅞
Owens Corning	35⅞	35¼
PPG Industries	66¼	66⅞
PMI Group	79¼	78
PNC Bank	60¼	61⅛
PP&L Res	22¼	22⅞
Paccar Inc	63¼	65⅛
Pacificorp	24⅞	24⅛
Pac Enterprises	40	39⅛
PaineWebber	41¼	41⅞
Pall Corp	21⅛	21¼
Parker Hannifin	50¼	49⅛
Peco Energy	21⅛	21¼
Penney (JC)	73⅞	73¼
Pennzoil	66	64¼
Pepsico	42⅞	42
Pfizer	90⅞	90
Pharm & Upjhn	43	42⅛
Phelps Dodge	65¼	66⅞
Philip Morris	42⅛	41⅛
Phillips Pet	51	49⅞
Pitney Bowes	50¼	50⅛
Polaroid	44¼	44⅞
Procter & Gmbl	85⅞	85¼
Providian	60⅞	61¼
Pub Serv E & G	35⅞	34⅛
Quaker Oats	57¼	57⅛
Ralston Purina	101	100⅞
Raychem Corp	42¼	42¼
Raytheon B	60⅞	60¼
Reebok Intl	30¼	30⅛
Reliastar Fin	47¼	48¼
Reynolds Metals	63⅞	64¼
Rockwell Intl	54⅛	54⅛
Rohm & Haas	103⅞	103¼
Royal Dutch	56¼	55
Rubbermaid	28¼	28¼
SBC Comms	42	43⅞
Safeco Corp	53¼	53¼
St Paul's Cos	92¼	94¼
Sara Lee Corp	60¼	60⅞
Schering Plough	81¼	82
Schlumberger	72⅞	71⅞
Seagram	38¼	38¼
Sears Roebuck	58⅞	58⅞
Shell Trans	43¼	43
Sherwin Wllms	34⅞	34⅞
Silicon Graphics	13⅞	14⅛
Snap-On-Tools	44⅛	44⅞
Southern Co	27⅛	27⅛
Southtrust	43¼	42⅛
Sprint Corp	74¼	71
Stanley Works	53⅞	53
Starwood H & R	51⅛	51⅞
Sun Company	43	42⅛
Sun Microsys	43¼	45¼
Suntrust	76¼	76⅛
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Synovus Fin	38¼	38¼
Sysco Corp	51¼	51¼
TRW Inc	54¼	54¼
TIG Hldgs	26¼	26⅛
Tandy Corp	47⅞	47⅛
Temple Inland	64⅞	64⅞
Tenet Healthcare	36¼	37⅛
Tenneco	43	42¼
Texaco	60¼	59⅞
Texas Inst	53⅞	55⅞
Texas Utilities	40	40¼
Textron	74¼	75¼
Thermo Elect	37⅞	38⅛
Time Warner	74	73⅛
Times-Mirror A	63⅛	63¼
Timken	34¼	34⅞
Torchmark	47¼	47⅛
Toys R Us	27⅛	27⅞
Transamerica	124¼	126⅞
Travelers	61⅞	60⅞
Tribune	66¼	67¼
UST Inc	33⅞	32⅞
US Bancorp	124¼	124⅞
UAL	91¼	91¼
Unitrin	69⅛	69⅞
US Inds	27¼	27¼
US West Comm	55⅞	55¼
US West Media	35⅛	35¼
USAirways Group	73⅛	73⅞
USX Marathon	37¼	36¼
Unicom	34¼	34⅛
Unilever NV	69⅛	66⅞
Union Camp	61¼	61
Union Carbide	48⅛	47⅛
Union Pacific	54¼	54⅛
Unisys Corp	19⅞	19⅛
USF&G Corp	25⅞	25⅛
United Tech	92¼	92¼
Unocal Corp	40	40⅞
VF Corp	50¼	50
Wal-Mart Stores	49¼	50¼
Warner-Lambert	161¼	161⅞
Waste Mngmt	31¼	31
Wells Fargo	337	335
Weyerhaeuser	56¼	55⅞
Whirlpool	68⅞	67⅞
Whitman	20⅞	20¼
Winn Dixie	58⅛	59⅛
Witco Corp	39⅞	39¼
Woolworth	26¼	26
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	81⅞	81⅞
Xerox	97⅞	96⅞
Xilinx Inc	40	40¼

NEWS

Toxic hazard from Dome site

■ More than 200,000 tonnes of potentially lethal waste have been buried near three villages in the English countryside as part of a "rush job" to clean up the Millennium Dome site.

The controversial clean-up of the former gasworks in Greenwich, where the Dome is being built, has involved excavating contaminated soil to a depth of 15 metres. But even so, the remaining earth is so dangerous that it has had to be sealed with a cap of crushed concrete ..... Page 1

Tube sees role for private sector

■ Radical plans to inject £7 billion into London Underground, mainly from the private sector, won strong City support but prompted fare rise fears ..... Page 1

Support for euro

The tide of opinion in Britain is turning in favour of the single currency, according to Gordon Brown ..... Page 2

Panic in paradise

The murder of a wealthy French socialite has shattered the idyll of Mustique ..... Page 3

Inventor's bid fails

An inventor's dreams of joining the space race came down to Earth when his £70,000 hand-built rocket crashed ..... Page 5

Cot death clue

Research showing that long-haul flights could put babies at risk of cot death has alarmed Anne Diamond, the broadcaster, whose baby died days after they returned from a holiday ..... Page 5

Power to discipline

The Home Office is to give chief constables power to sack corrupt police officers ..... Page 9

El Niño bouquet

The El Niño weather phenomenon has proved to be a boon for Australian vintners ..... Page 18

Mona Lisa enigma

Art experts fear that a Japanese sponsorship plan to exhibit the *Mona Lisa* in its own space may be the precursor to another attempt to clean it ..... Page 16

Fat of the land

The numbers of geese arriving on the West Coast of Scotland before heading back to Greenland are rising out of control ..... Page 10

Literacy targets

By the age of seven the Government wants children to read and understand a set list of more than 200 words ..... Page 13

Cosmetic attraction

Despite Mosocow's creaking health system it is attracting patients from London seeking cheap and reliable facelifts ..... Page 15

BBC may lose Test broadcasts

■ Cricket fans and politicians reacted with anger after a working group, set up by the Government, recommended that in future satellite television should cover England's home Test matches instead of the BBC ..... Page 1

MARC ASPLAND



England captain Lawrence Dallaglio takes in a panoramic view of Edinburgh before today's Calcutta Cup match against Scotland. Page 35

NEWS FEATURES

House of Aitken: The prospect of Jonathan Aitken's imprisonment has accelerated the fall of one of Britain's most influential political dynasties ..... Pages 20,21

Academy Awards: A Hollywood computer forecasts that Helena Bonham Carter will win the best actress Oscar and the *Titanic* will be the best picture ..... Page 7

Ball of a time: Forty years after rock'n'roll sent ballroom dancing into decline, big band music and the waltz are making an elegant comeback ..... Page 11

OPINION

Money talks: It should remain William Hague's intention to oppose monetary union. But he should leave himself the scope to shape his arguments ..... Page 23

Duty to spend: Governments will abolish duty free at their peril. And if it goes, how will any airline persuade travellers to arrive at the airport in good time? ..... Page 23

LETTERS

Challenge to EU on world hunger; Aitken defence; cricket commentators; Cook in Israel ..... Page 23

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The Save survey sets out each year's crop of ruined castles and decaying mansions; all are in need of love ..... Page 22

Oliver Swanton: Manchester is our finest northern city. But like Chicago in the 1920s it is in the grip of gangsters ..... Page 22

OBITUARIES

Beatrice Wood, avantgarde artist; **Peter Sichel,** winemaker; **J.T.Walsh,** US actor; **The Right Rev Edmund Capper,** former Bishop of St Helena ..... Page 25

BUSINESS

●●●●●●●. In 15 minutes the FTSE 100 suffered a 224-point turnaround ..... Page 27

●●●●●●▽. Directors earned more than £1 million after flotation ..... Page 27

●●●●●●●. Savoy Group A shares rose after it confirmed a *Times* report it was in takeover talks ..... Page 27

●●●●●●●. The FTSE 100 closed 41.6 lower at 5956.3. The £ rose to DM3.0536 but fell to $1.6648. Sterling index rose to 107.4 ..... Page 31

WEEKEND MONEY

Peps and Tessas; Isas; best share deals ..... Pages 45-64

SPORT

Cricket: Rain disrupted play on the opening day of the final Test in Antigua where England reached 25 for no wicket ..... Page 33

Football: Chelsea play Italian club Vicenza in the semi-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup ..... Page 39

Rugby union: The oldest trophy in the game, the Calcutta Cup, is on offer when England play Scotland ..... Page 35

Tennis: Wayne Riley held a two-stroke lead after two rounds of the Portuguese Open in Penina .. Page 40

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the times magazine

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Skanker's paradise: UB40 haven't died ..... Page 26
Gardens: Narcissus complex ..... Page 54
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Joanna Trollope: Pain of a stepmother ..... Page 3
Smoking: Right to light up where you want ..... Page 3
Shopping: Gifts for mother ..... Page 4
Property: Tea and chat in Notting Hill ..... Page
Go: Ford and the motor Land Cruiser ..... Page

Vision

Seven-day listing of radio and 40 TV channels

mag

Mother's Day messages and win a Paris holiday

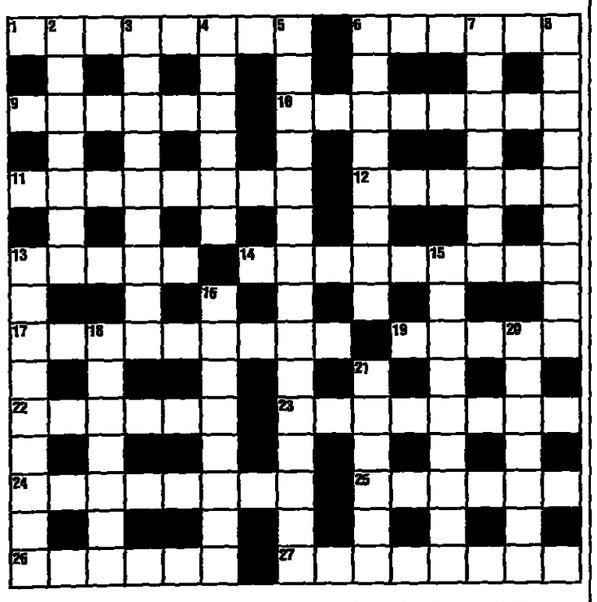
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,745

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....

.....

.....



ACROSS

1 Take a chance in selection, given last word for a change (4,4).
6 Wonder if poet has finally lost money (6).
9 Marketplace accepting new sort of goat (6).
10 Relax heartless command for one who returns (8).
11 Explorer's incomplete claim rejected in island (8).
12 Revolting team's taken advantage (6).
13 Seabirds see another one returning on board (5).
14 Parasite that traditionally overlooks displays of affection (9).
17 Saw covering page by writer as something extra (9).
19 Break one's skin (5).
22 False allure of poetry prize (6).
23 One heavily criticised about nothing and taken apart (8).
24 Living off the land (8).
25 Of dusky appearance? (6).
26 Woollen material from pullover initially altered (6).
27 Rehearsal of Suite in G (8).

DOWN

2 Thoroughly examine and torture a pair of partners imprisoned (7).
3 Sea creature swallows sole, swimming in huge quantities (9).
4 Old people left inside shrine (6).
5 Overnight, I slink off, being such a shy person (9,6).
6 Doctors having gone on round found carrier of disease (8).
7 Judgment made by composer about time (7).
8 Start to recognise something hereditary in girl's size (9).
13 Party activity finds growing support around shopping centre (5,4).
15 Rivalry from Greek character accepted in good mood (9).
16 Sin that subverts real duty (8).
18 Brown is after place as tradesman (7).
20 Don, perhaps, from African country lacking capital (7).
21 Barwoman's wine, excellent when brought up (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20739



Solution to Puzzle No 20744



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *S Arenson, London SW7; W Stewart, Leicester; A Briggs, North Berwick, East Lothian; T Kirkhope, Churchdown, Gloucester; C Ellis, Saffron Walden, Essex.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 6.02 am — Sun sets: 6.15 pm
Moon sets 10.34 am — Moon rises 1.36 am

Last quarter today

London 6.15 pm to 5.59 am
Bristol 6.25 pm to 6.08 am
Edinburgh 6.28 pm to 6.11 am
Manchester 6.24 pm to 6.07 am
Penzance 6.36 pm to 6.21 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 5.59 am — Sun sets: 6.17 pm
Moon sets 11.28 am — Moon rises 2.28 am

New moon March 28

London 6.17 pm to 5.57 am
Bristol 6.26 pm to 6.07 am
Edinburgh 6.30 pm to 6.08 am
Manchester 6.26 pm to 6.05 am
Penzance 6.38 pm to 6.19 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	6.21	3.4	7.00	3.4
Avonmouth	11.36	10.3	-	-
Bellast	3.55	3.0	4.37	2.9
Cardiff	11.22	9.6	11.52	9.3
Devonport	10.15	4.4	10.48	4.4
Dover	3.23	5.6	4.00	5.5
Dublin	4.48	3.3	5.33	3.3
Falmouth	9.46	4.2	10.19	4.2
Greenock	5.10	2.8	5.25	2.8
Harwich	4.21	3.4	4.48	3.3
Holyhead	3.08	4.5	3.38	4.4
Hull (Albert Dl	11.05	7.2	11.42	7.1
Ilfracombe	10.36	7.1	11.14	6.9
King's Lynn	11.06	5.1	11.41	4.9
Leith	7.42	4.5	8.15	4.4
Liverpool	3.48	7.7	4.16	7.4
London Bridge	6.50	6.1	6.52	6.1
Lowestoft	2.23	3.1	2.48	2.1
Margate	4.38	4.1	5.10	4.1
Milford Haven	10.57	5.3	11.33	5.2
Newquay	9.55	6.4	10.33	5.3
Oban	10.18	2.9	11.36	2.9
Penzance	9.20	4.3	10.01	4.3
Portland	12.22	1.3	11.43	1.4
Portsmouth	3.57	3.9	4.36	3.8
Shoreham	3.39	5.1	4.18	4.9
Southampton	3.18	3.6	3.49	3.7
Swansea	11.10	7.3	11.52	7.2
Tees	8.53	4.5	9.29	4.5
Walton-On-Naze	4.16	3.5	4.43	3.5

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Fair Isle 0.20in; highest sunshine: Jersey 10.4hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

FORECAST

☐ **General:** the far north of Scotland will be cloudy with some drizzle, but the rest of Scotland and Northern Ireland will be dry and mild with some sun. West Wales and the extreme west of England will have a fine day with plenty of sun. East Wales and most of England will start cloudy and grey with some drizzle near North Sea coasts. It should slowly brighten up with a few sunny spells, but eastern counties may stay grey. *Tonight it will be fairly mild. Counties* bordering the North Sea will stay cloudy but should be dry. The rest of the country will have clear spells and with only light breezes some patches of mist and fog may form.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, Central N, NE England:** rather cloudy early on with patchy drizzle. Slowly becoming brighter during the afternoon. A light northerly wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Central S England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** a cloudy morning but dry and mild with sunny spells developing. A light northerly wind. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **SW England, S Wales:** any early mist and low cloud will clear to give a dry day with sunny spells. A light north to northeast wind. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Moray Firth:** any early mist will clear to leave some cloud but also a few sunny spells. A light and variable wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** starting cloudy but any drizzle will die out to leave a brighter afternoon. Light to moderate west to southwest wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **N Ireland:** patchy mist will clear to leave a bright day with occasional sunshine. A light and variable wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** rather cloudy but with some bright or sunny intervals. Wind variable and light. Mild. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Outlook:** mostly dry and settled with some sunshine and above-average temperatures in most places, but eastern England will be rather cloudy again tomorrow. Rain will spread from the northwest on Monday night.



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

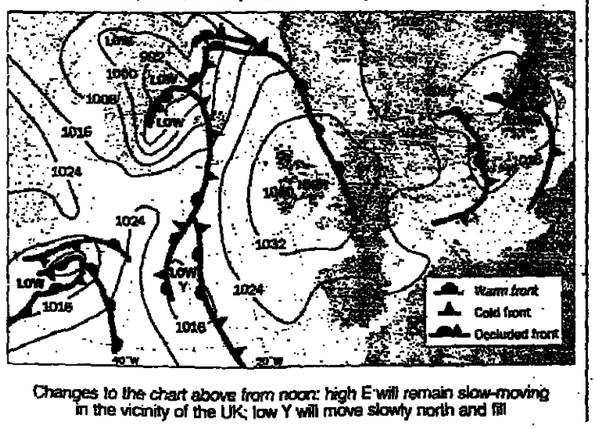
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.01	12	54	c
Anglesey	0.8	-	11	52	c
Aspatria	-	-	11	52	c
Aviemore	-	0.02	9	48	c
Belfast	-	0.01	11	52	c
Birmingham	0.8	-	10	50	c
Blogmor R	8.4	-	14	57	s
Bournem'th	4.7	-	13	55	s
Bristol	4.8	-	12	54	s
Buxton	1.0	-	9	48	c
Cardiff	X	-	13	55	c
Clacton	6.7	-	11	52	s
Cleethorpes	-	-	12	54	c
Colwyn Bay	0.1	-	10	50	c
Cromer	0.5	0.01	9	48	c
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	6.6	-	14	57	s
Edinburgh	3.2	0.01	14	57	s
Eskdalemuir	0.2	0.01	11	52	c
Exmouth	5.6	-	13	55	s
Falmouth	8.3	-	14	57	s
Fishguard	0.9	0.01	9	48	d
Folkestone	7.1	-	13	55	s
Glasgow	-	0.01	11	52	c
Guernsey	10.0	-	13	55	s
Hastings	6.8	-	13	55	s
Hayling I.	7.5	-	12	54	s
Herne Bay	X				
Hove	6.5	-	14	57	s
Hunstanton	0.7	-	10	50	c
Isle of Man	-	0.01	11	52	c
Isle-of-wight	7.5	0.01	12	54	s
Jersey	10.4	0.01	13	55	s
Kinloss	X				
Leeds	1.6	-	13	55	b
Lerwick	-	0.13	8	46	r
Leuchars	7.3	0.01	14	57	s
Littlehmptn	6.6	-	13	55	s
London	6.1	-	13	55	s
Lowestoft	1.1	0.01	11	52	d
Manchester	0.5	-	10	50	c
Margate	2.5	-	11	52	b
Minehead	X				
Morecambe	0.2	-	10	50	du
Newcastle	0.3	-	12	54	c
Newquay	X				
Norwich	0.9	0.01	11	52	c
Oxford	3.2	-	11	52	c
Penzance	X	-	15	59	s
Poole	4.7	-	13	55	s
Prestatyn	X				
Ross on Wye	X	-	11	52	c
Salcombe	9.8	-	12	54	s
Saunton Snd	8.9	-	12	54	s
Scarboro'	2.8	-	11	52	b
Shrewsbury	0.4	-	11	52	du
Skegness	-	-	12	54	c
Southend	5.3	-	12	54	s
Southport	X	-	10	50	b
Southsea	8.1	-	14	57	s
Stornoway	1.1	0.04	10	50	sh
Swanage	5.7	-	12	54	s
Teignmouth	6.5	-	12	54	s
Tenby	1.3	-	11	52	c
Tiree	0.3	-	10	50	c
Torquay	7.4	-	14	57	s
Tynemouth	X				
Weston s Mare	X				
Weymouth	6.4	-	14	57	s

ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	f	Cologne	9	48	c	Madrid	19	66	s
Alicante	13	55	f	C'phagn	5	41	s	Majorca	17	63	s
Alex'dria	14	57	c	Cork	13	55	s	Malaga	21	70	s
Algiers	19	66	s	Dublin	11	52	f	Malta	16	61	s
Amst'dam	9	48	f	Dubrovnik	13	55	s	Melbourne	20	68	s
Athens	13	55	s	Faro	20	68	s	Mexico C	24	75	s
Bahrain	21	70	f	Florence	14	57	f	Miami	24	75	f
Bangkok	34	93	s	Frankfurt	8	46	f	Milan	17	63	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Funchal	18	64	f	Montreal	-2	28	fg
Barcelona	17	63	s	Geneva	13	55	s	Moscow	-4	25	c
Beijing	2	36	f	Gibraltar	19	66	s	Munich	5	41	f
Beirut	10	50	f	Helsinki	1	34	f	Nairobi	27	81	f
Belgrade	10	50	f	Hong K	28	79	c	Naples	16	61	s
Berlin	5	41	f	Innsbruck	6	41	r	N Delhi	24	75	f
Bermuda	19	66	f	Istanbul	4	39	r	N York	4	39	f
Biarritz	14	57	s	Jeddah	26	79	f	Nice	16	61	s
Bordx'x	15	59	s	Jo'burg	22	72	f	Oslo	5	41	f
Brussels	10	50	f	L Palmas	23	73	s	Paris	12	54	f
Budapest	7	45	s	Le Touq't	11	52	f	Perth	32	90	s
B Aires	27	81	f	Lisbon	20	68	s	Prague	5	41	c
Cairo	14	57	c	Locarno	19	66	s	Reykjavik	4	39	r
Cape Tn	28	82	s	L Angels	18	64	s	Rhodes	13	55	s
Chicago	4	39	f	Luxmbg	7	45	c	Rio de J	30	86	f
Ch'church	X			Luxor	22	72	s	Riyadh	19	66	f
Sardinia	15	59	f	Madeira	19	66	s	Rome	16	64	f
Seattle	13	55	r	Salzburg	3	37	c				
Singapore	31	88	s	Santiago	25	77	f				
Stockholm	3	37	s	S Paulo	X						
Sydney	25	77	f	Seoul	11	52	r				
Tangier	21	70	s	Sing'por	34	93	f				
Tel Aviv	X			Strasb'rg	10	50	f				
Tenerife	24	75	s	Vancouver	12	54	s				
Tokyo	16	61	s	Vienna	9	48	r				
Toronto	1	34	sn	Warsaw	4	39	f				
Tunis	19	66	s	Wash'ton	10	50	c				
Valencia	19	66	s	Wel'ington	X						
Vanc'ver	10	50	s	Zurich	9	48	s				
Venice	15	59	s								

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: high E will remain slow-moving in the vicinity of the UK; low Y will move slowly north and fill



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OPENERS ENDURE TEST BY FIRE AND WATER



Stewart collapses in pain after being struck in the chest by a ball from Ambrose in the last over of the morning. It was the moment that confirmed the pitch as unsuitable for Test cricket. Photograph: Kieran Doherty

England pitched into peril

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN ST JOHN'S, ANTIGUA

FIVE balls are seldom sufficient to judge a pitch or foretell a Test match but, yesterday, five were more than enough. Before the rain that is plaguing Antigua swept across the Recreation Ground for the first time on a heavily interrupted day, another torrid Caribbean surface had revealed itself.

England, put in to bat on a square that has not staged a serious game since being relaid late last year, knew their fate immediately. There was to be no measured march towards the 400-plus that would establish command, but a painful scrap for survival.

It is hard to assess the division of responsibility between bad luck, bad planning and sheer incompetence. The fact is that this pitch, unveiled by the proud Antiguans with a touch of "we-told-you-so" after so much published doubt about their ability to get the ground ready, was dangerous. It may improve, losing its venom, if and when the sun shines again, but on this first morning it was not in a fit condition for Test cricket.

Brian Lara's decision to bowl is easily explained; Michael Atherton, given the chance, would have done the same. Whether through ill-judged watering on Thursday afternoon, an accident with the covers or, barely conceivably, simple sweating, it began extremely damp and loose. The first ball of the match, from Courtney Walsh to Atherton, was akin to a cinema trailer of something unpalatable. It pitched short, took out a substantial divot and ballooned bizarrely past Atherton's helmet. Game on.

When the fifth ball flew at Atherton's gloves, causing him to reel away from the crease in discomfort and disorientation, it was time for the squeamish to avert their eyes. This was not to be pleasant viewing. Rain drew a merciful intermission curtain.

Within the 11 overs that were possible in the first two sessions there was much more of the same — many more chunks lifted from the surface, many more unplayable balls and some, inevitably, that hit and hurt.

That England reached the sanctuary of the pavilion at 25 without loss was extraordinary, for they might have been 17 for three, just as they were on a now long-ago morning in Jamaica and on a pitch of more obviously roguish nature.

Here, they remained intact through good fortune and, more pertinently, batting of courage and quality. Atherton, especially, was lordly, his soft-handed defence and poised position, head utterly still, mocking those who have so recently derided his technique. Stewart, though, was no less brave and he has the bruises to show for it.

So it has come full circle. The series began with a frightening, bone-crunching hour and it is ending in similar malign mood. Those old-timers who used to hone their skills and inflate their averages on docile Caribbean pitches must be scarcely able to believe their eyes.

When the England captain and coaches inspected the pitch after lunch on Thursday, they found nothing to alarm them. They considered it dry and likely to bounce low and slow. They settled contentedly on an unchanged side.

At some point between that inspection and start of play yesterday, the pitch changed feel and texture. It became wet. Potentially, this sabotaged the decisive game of the series, though little, if anything, will be said about it. All those responsible for the fiasco in Jamaica have retained their positions and some are now emboldened to allege that the abandonment was unnecessary.

As England must win here to salvage a draw from the series, this chain of events was far from ideal. Even with substantial time lost already, though, a positive result is likely if the weather improves, and Lara has inserted an interesting factor by picking his leg spinner, Dinanath Ramnarine, for his second Test.

There was no chance of Ramnarine getting an early bowl, for the ball would have needed prising from the grip of Ambrose and Walsh. They have shared 41 wickets in the series, and though this is two fewer than the aggregate of Fraser and Headley for England, these were conditions measured for them. England simply had to retain their focus, which is never an easy matter at the noisiest Test venue in the world.

An hour was lost at this point, technically compensated at the end of the day, and Ambrose's opening assault confirmed that the danger would come from both ends. Stewart was credited four runs off his gloves, but he knew precious little about it.

Walsh offered latitude which Atherton hungrily accepted, working him through square leg. Relax against Walsh at your peril, though; in his next over, Atherton erred outside off stump and Junior Murray was immobile as the chance passed his right glove.

The ball that condemned this pitch most graphically came in the penultimate over of the session. Stewart, on the back foot to Ambrose, was struck sickeningly in the chest by a ball of reasonable length. He collapsed and lay prone, awaiting treatment. After that, a rainy afternoon at least delayed the torture.

Atherton is rapped on the glove by a ball from Walsh

ANTIGUA SCOREBOARD

West Indies won toss

ENGLAND: First innings

*M A Atherton not out (47min, 31 balls, 1 four)	13
A J Stewart not out (47min, 37 balls, 2 fours)	10
Extras (nb 2)	2
Total (0 wkts, 11 overs, 47min)	25

M A Butcher, N Hussain, G P Thorpe, M R Ramprakash, †R C Russell, A R Caddick, D W Headley, A R C Fraser and P C R Tufnell to bat.

BOWLING: (one spell each) Walsh 6-2-15-0 (1 four); Ambrose 5-2-10-0 (nb 2; 2 fours).

SCORING NOTES (First Day): start delayed 15 minutes until 10.20am; rain interruption 10.24 to 11.24am (4 overs deducted). Lunch: 25-0 (11 overs, 47min; Atherton 13, Stewart 10). Rain prevented further play before tea.

WEST INDIES: C B Lambed, P A Wallace, *B C Lara, S Chanderpaul, C L Hooper, R I C Holder, †J R Murray, F A Rose, C E L Ambrose, D Ramnarine and C A Walsh.

Umpires: S A Buckner (West Indies) and C J Mitchley (South Africa).

Third umpire: P Whyte.

Match referee: B N Jarman (Australia).

SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Kingston): Match drawn (abandoned — dangerous pitch); Second Test (Port-of-Spain): West Indies won by 3 wickets. Third Test (Port-of-Spain): England won by 3 wickets. Fourth Test (Georgetown): West Indies won by 242 runs. Fifth Test (Bridgetown): Match drawn.

Compiled by Bill Frindall

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RUGBY UNION

Gatland guarding against force of Welsh invasion

FROM MARK SOUSTER IN DUBLIN

FATALISM has given way to a sense of optimism in Dublin during the past two weeks, something that, from an Ireland perspective, does not necessarily bode well. Suddenly, a nation that appeared in terminal despair is confident of victory over Wales — a dangerous assumption.

With Ireland one learns to expect the unexpected, as was evident in Paris: but, too often, this scenario has been visited before, only for hopes to be dashed.

The task for Warren Gatland, the coach, is to repeat his conjuring trick against France and prove that their performance was not an illusion. This one must be achieved in different circumstances. Ireland are expected to win. More importantly, they have to.

Gatland will want to ensure that Ireland have not been lulled into a false sense of security and, being a pragmatist, that should not be beyond him.

With the benefit of hindsight, perhaps one should have expected that Ireland would answer Gatland's call two weeks ago.

There is always a tendency for a new coach to have an immediate impact, but no one could have predicted the manner in which Ireland would sustain their challenge against a France side that suffered only partly from complacency. Being dismissed as no-hopers suits the Irish psyche.



However, the fact is that Ireland have not won in the Five Nations Championship this year and their only success in five internationals this season was eked out against Canada. The encouraging feature is that the collective margin of defeats by Scotland and France has been only three points.

At a press conference on Thursday, rearranged because it clashed with the Tote Gold Cup at Cheltenham, Gatland outlined starkly what his target was: "Just a win. Three-nil would do. One-nil would do."

That was it. No talk of style or principles. He continued: "I suppose the different problems will be that the pressure has come on now with such a positive performance in France. But we do need to be consistent in the way that we perform."

His assessment was endorsed by Keith Wood, the captain. "The Welsh can sneak in here [Dublin] pretty quietly, because everybody is talking about Ireland at the moment. But it's not as if it is a foregone conclusion, even if some people are beginning to think along those lines. No one in the Irish set-up is thinking like that."

Wood was also anxious to play down his confrontation with his opposite number, Garin Jenkins.

In many ways, Ireland face pressure similar to that which confronted Wales at Wembley against Scotland. After their humiliation by England, Wales simply had to win. It mattered not how they did it: their followers were simply relieved at the result.

The Wales squad arrived in Dublin on Thursday evening, in the vanguard of a Welsh invasion of about 30,000 people, even though their ticket allocation is only 4,700. An extra 139 flights have been laid on. That, in itself, illustrates the attraction of Dublin on a championship weekend.

In the absence of the injured Scott Gibbs, Wales have drafted in Leigh Davies for his first Five Nations start this season, giving him the opportunity to rekindle a career that seemed destined for the firmament two years ago. If anything, the Cardiff centre may bring greater subtlety to the Wales midfield.

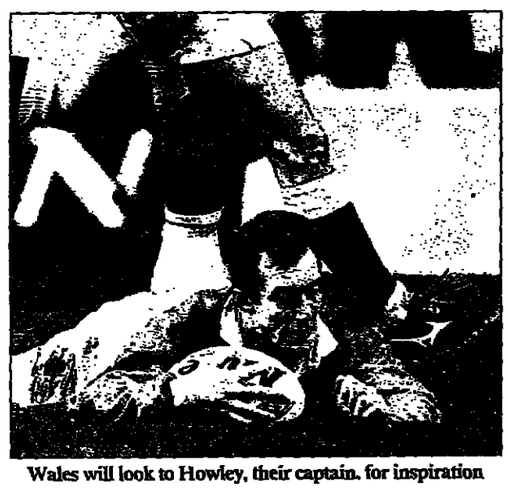
However, Wales will struggle in the forward exchanges. They took a while to come to terms with Scotland in that department and the raw-boned aggression of the Ireland pack at Lansdowne Road will be a different matter.

Kingsley Jones, the Wales pack leader, said: "I'll be using the stick approach. We've got to be really fired up. If we are complacent in any way, we will struggle. We know they can create chaos and mayhem."

Rob Howley, the captain, talked of bringing a greater rhythm to the Wales game, responsibility for which must rest largely with him. But Wales must also secure their scrum and lineout, which will not be easy, and Andrew Lewis, the Cardiff prop, will be keen to put behind him his unhappy experience at the hands of Paul Wallace two years ago.

Wales have not beaten Ireland in their past four meetings, including their 1995 World Cup encounter, but matches between these two sides, be they in Cardiff or Dublin, are remarkable for the number of victories by the away team. Twelve of the past 14 internationals between Wales and Ireland have gone to the visiting side.

The Ireland management watched gloomily as their investment in Doran's Pride came unstuck at Cheltenham, but they would be thinking they are on a winner this afternoon.



Wales will look to Howley, their captain, for inspiration

TODAY'S TEAMS IN DUBLIN

		IRELAND		WALES
C P Clarke (Tevenure College)	15		K A Morgan (Pontypridd)
R M Wallace (Saracens)	14		W T Proctor (Llanelli)
K M Maggs (Bristol)	13		A G Bateman (Richmond)
R A J Henderson (Wasps)	12		L B Davies (Cardiff)
D A Hickie (St Mary's College)	11		G Thomas (Bridgend)
E P Elwood (Galwegians)	10		N R Jenkins (Pontypridd)
C D McGuinness (St Mary's College)	9		R Howley (Cardiff)*
R Corrigan (Greystones)	1		A L P Lewis (Cardiff)
K G M Wood (Harlequins)*	2		G R Jenkins (Swansea)
P S Wallace (Saracens)	3		D Young (Cardiff)
P S Johns (Saracens)	4		M J Voyle (Llanelli)
M E O'Kelly (London Irish)	5		A P Moore (Swansea)
D S Corkery (Bristol)	6		R C Appleyard (Swansea)
A J Ward (Ballynahinch)	7		K P Jones (Ebbw Vale)
V C P Costello (St Mary's College)	8		C L Charvis (Swansea)
*Captain			*Captain

Referee: E F Morrison (England)

REPLACEMENTS (from): 16 M C McCall (London Irish), 17 D G Humphreys (London Irish), 18 B T O'Meara (Cork Constitution), 19 M J Galwey (Shannon), 20 N J Popplewell (Newcastle), 21 P M Clohessy (Young Munster), 22 R P Nesdale (Newcastle), 23 E R P Miller (Leicester)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 N Boobyer (Llanelli), 17 B Hayward (Ebbw Vale), 18 P John (Pontypridd), 19 S Davies (Swansea), 20 W S Roy (Pontypridd), 21 L Mustoe (Cardiff), 22 J M Humphreys (Cardiff)



Ward has appreciated local support. Photograph: David Rogers/Allsport

Irish eyes smile on lad from obscurity

Karl Johnston on the recent recipient of an unlikely international call

When Andy Ward visited Lansdowne Road with the Ireland squad yesterday, it was the first time that he had been to the world's oldest international rugby ground since being interviewed for, and winning, the position of development officer with the Irish Rugby Football Union [IRFU] four years ago.

The New Zealand-born open-side flanker will play his first game there against Wales today. The atmosphere will be rather more welcoming than that at the Stade de France, where he made an impressive international debut, two weeks ago.

"It was an unbelievable occasion for me as an individual," Ward said. "Running down the tunnel and out onto the pitch was nearly indescribable; an absolutely awesome sensation. The stadium is amazing, but I enjoyed the game thoroughly, although it was a shame that we didn't come out of there with a win."

The air of shabbiness and decay gives Lansdowne Road more the feeling of a decrepit penitentiary than a modern stadium and "amazing" is hardly a word readily associated with the place. But, for all that, the atmosphere can be electrifying and Ward and his teammates will have the vocal backing of a passionate crowd that has become starved of impressive home displays by the national rugby team.

After an early-season warm-up match against Richmond, Ward became a regular in Ulster's Guinness Interprovincial Championship and Heineken Cup campaigns, an unusual achievement for a player plying his trade with Ballynahinch, the AIB League third division Co Down club that brought him to Ireland four years ago.

He took part in one national squad training session under Brian Ashton before Christmas, before Warren Gatland, who succeeded Ashton as coach, gave him his chance.

Ward, a 27-year-old from Ohaupo, near Hamilton, won almost all-round approval for his performance, although Fergus Slattery, a former Ireland captain, described him as "the weakest link" [in the back row] and accused him of ball-watching during the build-up to a try by Bernat-Salles.

"The aftermath was a time for reflection", Ward said. "I sat down and watched the video a few times and just sort of analysed myself; there's a lot of room for improvement, I feel, and hopefully I'll make it up on Saturday, against Wales."

The back row has been a weakness for Ireland during the past two seasons. Injuries have not helped, admittedly, but ten different combinations of back-row forwards have been used in that time. Slattery, who knew the value of stability with John O'Driscoll and Willie Duggan in his own day, should wish the present triumvirate well.

Before his move to Ireland, Ward played for three seasons for Waikato B and made five appearances for the full provincial side. Naturally, he knew Gatland well — "Warren is a big figure in Waikato rugby", he said.

Ward and his Irish wife, Wendy, have bought a house in Ballynahinch and are there to stay. Ward is the club's first international player and he has appreciated the local reaction to his selection, before and after the match against France.

"I think they enjoyed the occasion just as much as I did, if not more so. When I came home after the match, people kept coming up and shaking my hand. It was a lovely atmosphere to be involved in," Ward, who has acquired a noticeable Ulster accent, said.

You can be sure that many more hands of friendship will be extended should he share in an Ireland victory at Lansdowne Road today.

Scotland succeed in grand manner

Scotland A 42
England A 14

BY DAVID HANDS

GRAND slams, at whatever level they occur, are to be celebrated and Scotland did so deservedly yesterday after this A international at Inverleith. Playing with passion and purpose, they trounced a makeshift England to complete a memorable season with their most convincing display by far.

From modest beginnings against Ireland (11-9), they carried the day against France (24-20), beat Wales 18-10 and scored six tries against England, one of them a penalty try that tilted the game firmly their way at a time when England desperately needed encouragement.

The hunger of the Scotland forwards overwhelmed England, who seldom achieved any continuity and struggled to hold the bull-like Eriksson.

England's limited comfort, in an A season of sustained failure — four losses out of four — came from their Gloucester connection. Fidler worked gamely throughout, as did Catling, while Johnson sparkled briefly before McIlwham, living up to his name, crushed the wing in an entirely legitimate tackle.

Scotland scored in the first minute, Reid striding through the middle and staying on his feet to complete the try from which he and his colleagues never looked back.

Butland's goalkicking made the first half a contest until the concession of the penalty try and a score by Hodge. After the break, Shepherd, his confidence intact after an unhappy season at senior level, sent Kerr over in the corner, leaving the final quarter to Officer, who completed one gem of a movement covering 50 metres and enjoyed a solo run for his second try.

Ireland wilt as Thomas excels

Ireland A 27
Wales A 42

FROM KARL JOHNSTON IN LIMERICK

THE first A international to be played in Limerick went the way of Wales yesterday. The visitors deserved to win more decisively, but gained a clear-cut victory nonetheless.

The match marked the hundredth anniversary of the only full international to be staged in the city, where Ireland and Wales met in what were then the grounds of Limerick County Cricket Club — the distance of a punt by Arwel Thomas from Thomond Park, the venue for the encounter yesterday. Unhappily for Ireland, who lost the 1898 match, 11-3, history repeated itself.

Ireland got off to a fine start, with Paul Burke creating and then brilliantly converting a try by John McWeeney after 35 seconds. A lead of 17-6 after half an hour was a good platform for a team that included nine full international players to launch the rout of the opposition.

Then, however, the Ireland forwards, with the exception of Eddie Halvey, began to perform as if they were celebrating their own centenaries and, orchestrated by the superb Thomas, who scored 22 points including a try, Wales fought back and were in total control in the second half.

The signs were ominous for Ireland at half-time, their lead already down to 17-14, and when the replacement full back, David Weatherley, scored the first of his two tries immediately after the restart, there was no way back.

A penalty by Burke only partly stemmed the tide. Wales piling on 21 points in 14 minutes. Ireland, having opened the scoring, also closed it with a try from McIvor, but the day belonged to Wales.

Welsh proposing Premiership link

BY MARK SOUSTER

SENIOR officials within the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) have made overtures to England's top clubs about the possibility of Welsh sides joining an expanded Allied Dunbar Premiership. Intermediaries acting on behalf of the WRU held discussions with board members of English First Division Rugby this week and floated the idea of eight Welsh clubs combining with 24 English teams in a revamped competition.

They are conscious that, if English clubs carry out their boycott of the Heineken Cup, the competition would be seriously undermined and may even collapse, with serious financial and playing consequences for some clubs.

The consensus in Wales is that the domestic league is too incestuous and that the leading clubs need wider exposure. At this stage, however, Welsh clubs joining the Allied Dunbar Premiership might prove too difficult to implement, but the discussions could form the basis of a new European competition also involving France.

Meanwhile, developments in France this week have considerably strengthened the hand of English clubs, whose plan to expand the Premiership to two divisions of 14 was rejected by the Rugby Football Union management board last week.

The French Government has announced that the French rugby federation should only be responsible for the international and amateur game and that the elite clubs could be allowed a degree of autonomy regarding the organisation of competitions, sponsorship and television rights. The Government said that anything to the contrary would contravene European law, which is exactly the argument that English clubs are putting forward.



RUGBY UNION STATISTICS

THE TIMES WORLD RUGBY UNION TABLE

		P	W	D	L	F	A	%
1	New Zealand	22	20	1	1	912	391	93.18
2	France	26	17	0	9	767	557	65.38
3	Australia	23	14	1	8	642	480	63.04
4	South Africa	26	16	0	10	887	555	61.54
5	England	19	10	2	7	479	347	57.89
6	Wales	26	12	0	14	629	678	46.15
7	Italy	13	5	1	7	391	455	42.30
8	Argentina	17	6	1	10	414	567	38.24
9	Scotland	18	6	0	12	327	553	33.33
10	Ireland	17	4	0	13	315	465	23.52

(based on all full international played since January 1, 1996)

FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	3	0	0	93	49	6
England	2	1	0	1	77	58	2
Wales	2	1	0	1	45	73	2
Scotland	3	1	0	2	46	86	2
Ireland	2	0	0	2	32	35	0

RESULTS SO FAR: France 24 England 17; Ireland 16 Scotland 17; England 60 Wales 26; Scotland 18 France 51; France 18 Ireland 16; Wales 19 Scotland 13

Ireland v Wales
(in Five Nations Championship)

	P	I won	E won	Draw
In Ireland	37	18	18	3
Overall	75	29	42	5

Since 1984 the away side has won 11 of the 14 encounters. In the 1990s Ireland have managed only three home wins in the Five Nations in the same period Wales have managed three away wins, two of which have been in Dublin

HEAD-TO-HEAD TODAY

Ireland		Wales
186	Caps	257
72/113	Backs/Forwards	152/105
20	Tries	46
10/10	Backs/Forwards	4/42
26.3m	Average age	27.3m
25 7/25 7	Backs/forwards	26 6/27 11
134st 12lb	Pack weights	132st 9lb

Scotland v England
(in Five Nations Championship)

	P	S won	E won	Draw
In Scotland	38	16	17	3
Overall	76	22	46	8

A win today by England would be their eighth in a row against Scotland in the Five Nations, beating the seven-win sequences of 1913-24 and 1951-57. It would also equal England's best record against any nation in the competition: eight wins against Ireland between 1912 and 1924. Scotland's last victory in the series was the 13-7 grand slam win in 1990 at Murrayfield.

HEAD-TO-HEAD TODAY

417	Caps	256
198/219	Backs/forwards	105/151
63	Tries	39
46/17	Backs/forwards	24/15
26.10	Age	26.11
28 6/29 6	Backs/forwards	28 8/27 8
132st3lb	Pack weights	133st 8lb

KICKING SUCCESS

	Attempt	Success	%
D Humphreys (I)	3	3	100.00
P Grayson (E)	14	13	92.85
N Jenkins (W)	5	4	80.00
E Elwood (I)	5	4	80.00
C Lamaison (F)	13	9	69.23
T Castagnède (F)	6	4	66.67
C Chalmers (S)	12	7	58.33
A Thomas (W)	7	4	57.14
R Shepherd (S)	7	2	28.57
M Catt (E)	1	0	0.00

LINE OUTS

	Award	Won Own	Opp	%
France	39	40	37	3 97.50
England	35	39	39	0 82.85
Wales	22	30	18	2 61.82
Scotland	37	30	29	1 78.38
Ireland	31	29	24	5 77.42

% = own ball won

Individual wins: 21: M O'Kelly (Ireland); 19: O Brouzet (France); 14: G Archer (England), G Weir (Scotland).

TELEVISION COVERAGE: Ireland v Wales, live on BBC1 (today); Scotland v England, live on BBC2 (tomorrow).

Compiled by Stephen McCormack

Yapp starts to make his mark

WITH Tony Yapp, the Bedford fly half, contributing 22 points with two tries, three conversions, a penalty goal and a dropped goal, the England Under-21 team beat their Scotland counterparts 32-16 at Inverleith yesterday.

Yapp, given his chance because of Jonny Wilkinson's promotion to the full international squad, seized it with both hands. Yet it was not all plain sailing for Yapp and his colleagues, for they were outplayed for long periods by opponents who were in such complete control during the first quarter that England were denied a foothold in the Scotland 22 and trailed by 16-7 at the interval.

The turning-point came ten minutes into the second half with a careless pass in midfield by Jamie Mayer, one of the Scotland centres. This was intercepted by Iain Balshaw, the England full back, who sprinted more than half the length of the pitch to score.

His try, converted by Yapp, put England ahead for the first time and from then on they grew in confidence. Yapp and Balshaw both claimed their second tries in the final ten minutes to ensure that England's 100 per cent record remained intact.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Senior fails to overturn ban

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

KEITH SENIOR, the Sheffield Eagles centre who was banned for four matches by the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee and fined £200 after he admitted striking Barrie-Jon Mather, his Castleford Tigers opposite number, had his appeal against the sentence rejected yesterday.

Senior was put on report after the incident in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final at Castleford last week. His two subsequent tries won Sheffield the match. He will miss the semi-final against Salford Reds, at Headingley next Saturday, and the opening three rounds of the Super League campaign, but he remains available for the final, at Wembley on May 2.

Hull Kingston Rovers, still in administration but with interest now being shown by a millionaire prospective buyer, will look to extend their unbeaten four-game run at the top of the first division tomorrow at home against Rochdale Hornets.

Wakefield Trinity, the only other side with a 100 per cent record, entertain Swinton Lions. A place off the bottom, Keighley Cougars need to maintain their recent recovery under the new coach, Lee Crooks, at Whitehaven.

There have been plenty of farewells already, but tomorrow promises to be the final goodbye by Halifax Blue Sox to Thrum Hall before the long-awaited move to The Shay next month and a ground-sharing arrangement with Halifax Town Football Club. Leeds Rhinos provide the opposition but it is an occasion more about nostalgia than the result.

For a second year, Jason Robinson and Andy Farrell, both of Wigan Warriors, were unanimous choices of If Super League coaches for the select XIII in the *Rothman's Rugby League Yearbook 1998*, based on form throughout last season.

COACHES SELECT XIII: S Spurr (Bradford); J Robinson (Wigan), C Sanderson (Wigan), O Pearcock (Bradford), A Sullivan (St Helens), I Harris (Leeds), S Edwards (Bradford), A Mestrov (London), J Lowes (Bradford), P Broadbent (Sheffield), B McDermott (Bradford), P Gill (London), S Haughton (Wigan), A Morley (Leeds), A Farrell (Wigan).

Ready to thwart the Murrayfield ambush

Plotting of McGeechan and Telfer offers Scotland the best chance of victory in Calcutta Cup encounter tomorrow

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO



I can picture Jim Telfer now, pinning up in the Scotland changing-room at Murrayfield newspaper articles that foretell how well England are going to play against his team tomorrow. He will leave no stone unturned to ensure that his players are pumped up for the occasion. His presence, together with that of Ian McGeechan, is the greatest strength Scotland have.

Having had first-hand experience of how both men approach the game, when we toured with the British Isles in South Africa last summer, I know how thorough Scotland's preparation will be. I regard Ian as one of the most astute coaches, technically and tactically, in the world and I enjoyed working in a pack prepared by Jim, but we will not forget that Scotland have some talented players in key positions on the field.

The likes of Gary Armstrong, Gregor Townsend, Doddie Weir — and how good it will be to see Doddie winning his fiftieth cap after the career-threatening injury he he suffered during the Lions tour — are not going to be intimidated by the names they see on the England team-sheet. They play with and against them every week in the Allied Dunbar Premiership and some have played with them on the Lions tour.

We have already seen in this Five Nations Championship how teams beaten one weekend can bounce back at the next opportunity. We have done it ourselves, Ireland did it against France and Scotland will be regretting that they did not push home the advantage that they seemed to have early in their match against Wales at Wembley. What better team to do it against than England, and as underdogs at Murrayfield?

While no match can be a foregone conclusion, there is confidence in the England team that if we play in the way we know we are capable of, we will come up with the right result. That's not a confidence bordering on arrogance but a belief in our ability that has been supplemented by the attitude displayed by the players in our last game, against Wales.

It would have been easy then to revert to type, just to ensure victory, especially after we went down early in the game, but we persevered with the game we wanted to play, with the patterns we had worked on in training and the performance improved. This group of players and management believes that, ultimately, that is the only way in which we can achieve our global ambitions.

Since then, of course, we have had a four-week break and some players have taken part in six games, six very physical games, which have taken their toll. Everyone knows that the playing structure is far from ideal but we have to work within what we have at the moment and the demands made on the players ensures that consistency in selection will be difficult.

No one would say that the changes enforced upon the team in any way devalue it. The four players coming in have the chance to show their worth at this level and that they are buying into the game that England hope to develop. They know they have to show more for England than they do for their clubs, but it is consistency at club level that has given them their chance now.

> **'No one would say that the changes enforced upon the team in any way devalue it'**

Of no one is that more true than Dean Ryan. When we played together in a Wasps back row our roles were slightly reversed, since he was the man in charge. I learnt a great deal from him and it has come as no surprise to see him, Rob Andrew and Steve Bates carry Newcastle to the top of the English tree. Dean is a leader, on and off the pitch, and now has an opportunity that he may have felt had passed him by.

When you play in the first division, against all the leading players, you can never be written off. Too much has been made of Dean's supposedly abrasive play and not enough of his astute rugby brain. His forthright approach only stands out because he is one of relatively few players with so strong a physical presence, partly attributable to time he spent in New Zealand. If he played there, or in South Africa, no one would notice his style because he would be one of many.

His arrival in the back row restores a specialist No 8 to the team and I welcome the chance to play flanker again. As an individual you have to prefer the playing position you occupy regularly and, in the speed of an international, the things that come naturally are more often than not the right decisions. I hope we will be making those decisions tomorrow.

England seek to avoid another step backwards

David Hands meets a former soldier answering a belated call-up

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE only prize on offer at Murrayfield tomorrow is the oldest trophy in rugby union — the Calcutta Cup. No grand slams, not even a triple crown, though that remains within England's grasp should they beat Scotland in the Five Nations Championship. Perhaps at this stage of the development of both teams, that is appropriate. They are learning, as Lawrence Dallaglio puts it, to be successful.

There is, therefore, none of the rancour that has been attached to this fixture in times past. Though England have stated their ambition often enough this season to achieve on a global stage, they have learnt to take one step at a time and, often enough this season, two steps forward has been followed by one back — a gallant defeat against New Zealand preceded a less meritorious loss to South Africa.

Then came the much-lauded draw with New Zealand and the eclipse in Paris by France. A fortnight later England charged back with a championship record of 60 points against Wales and the Royal Bank of Scotland international is the time to show that they can pick up from where they left off at Twickenham.

It is a remarkable fact, and also says a lot about Scotland's never-ending need to maximise their limited resources, that five of their XV played in the climactic grand-slam game of 1990, the last time the Calcutta Cup left England. Paul Burnell joins Damien Cronin, Gary Armstrong and Craig Chalmers, the half backs, and Tony Stanger in a hard core of experience that has transformed well to the modern game that Jim Telfer and Ian McGeechan, their coaches, who were also at the helm eight years ago, will demand.

The only England survivor is Jeremy Guscott, a try-scorer then. He said yesterday: "Scotland played a lot of the attractive rugby against Wales a fortnight ago and were unlucky not to win. With the two coaches they have, we will need to keep our wits about us."

Guscott, though, has yet to sense the air of crackling expectancy that surrounded the 1990 game and that of two years ago, when Scotland themselves were going for a grand slam. The pre-Christmas internationals were depressing for the Scots, a one-point win over Ireland lifting spirits somewhat, only for France to run in 51 points at Murrayfield.

FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

Yet Scotland will try to play with the ball in hand, while attempting to impose themselves more in the set-pieces than they might have in the past. Their coaches will not perceive the England front row as a massive threat, though that is an area where England have worked hard this week. They put down some 50 scrums on Tuesday and concentrated on that area again yesterday morning, in the hope of ensuring a platform of quality.

It would be naive, as well, not to expect the Scots to examine the temperament of Dean Ryan. Normally, Armstrong is barking away at his heels with Newcastle, tomorrow he will attempt to put the England No 8 off his game.

If Ryan comes through to dominate as he can, he will have completed a personal triumph. However, he must also show that he can fit into the loose framework that Clive Woodward requires.

Ryan's forte is carrying the ball into contact, whereas there will be times when it must be passed if England's back division is to shine as it did against Wales. "Nos 8, 9 and 10 have to make the decisions," Guscott said. "What happens after the first phase is largely up to the person with the ball. It boils down to control of the ball and making the right decisions at the right time."

The juxtaposition of Ryan with Dallaglio, the England captain, has a resonance of its own. It was largely through Ryan's presence at Wasps that Dallaglio concentrated on becoming an international blind-side flanker and the No 8 is so used to taking charge, at Wasps and subsequently at Newcastle, that he will find it strange to adopt a subordinate role. Woodward, though, has emphasised constantly that he wants decision-makers throughout the side and the England back row will not lack authority.

Behind them, the joust between four British Isles half backs will be a bonus. Matt Dawson has an opportunity to nudge ahead of Kyran Bracken in the race to be England's first-choice scrum half and there is no better opponent than Armstrong. Paul Grayson will seek to sustain his rich vein of form at fly half in the knowledge that the England coach now regards young Jonathan Wilkinson as the official second choice.

"It's important that Paul knows, week in, week out, there is someone snapping at his heels," Woodward said. It would be no surprise were he to release Wilkinson for yet another cameo role as a replacement, but only if the circumstances are propitious and Scotland, with nine Lions in their ranks, will endeavour to make sure that they are not.

TOMORROW'S TEAMS AT MURRAYFIELD

	SCOTLAND		ENGLAND
15	D J Lee (London Scottish)	15	M B Perry (Bath)
14	A G Stanger (Hawick)	14	A A Adebayo (Bath)
13	A V Tait (Newcastle)	13	W J H Greenwood (Leicester)
12	G P J Townsend (Northampton)	12	J C Guscott (Bath)
11	S L Longstaff (Dundee HSFP)	11	A S Healey (Leicester)
10	C M Chalmers (Melrose)	10	P J Grayson (Northampton)
9	G Armstrong (Newcastle)*	9	M J S Dawson (Northampton)
1	D I W Hilton (Bath)	1	J Leonard (Harlequins)
2	G C Bulloch (West of Scotland)	2	R Cockerill (Leicester)
3	A P Burnell (London Scottish)	3	D J Garforth (Leicester)
4	D F Cronin (Wasps)	4	M O Johnson (Leicester)
5	G W Weir (Newcastle)	5	G S Archer (Newcastle)
6	R I Wainwright (Dundee HSFP)	6	L B N Dallaglio (Wasps)*
7	A J Roxburgh (Kelso)	7	N A Back (Leicester)
8	E W Peters (Bath)	8	D Ryan (Newcastle)
	*Captain		*Captain

Referee: C Thomas (Wales)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 H-R Gilmour (Heriot's FP), 17 C A Murray (Hawick), 18 A D Nicol (Bath), 19 A C Pountney (Northampton), 20 S B Grimes (Watsonians), 21 P H Wright (West of Scotland), 22 D G Ellis (Currie)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 P R de Glanville (Bath), 17 J Wilkinson (Newcastle), 18 S Benton (Gloucester), 19 A J Diprose (Saracens), 20 D J Grewcock (Saracens), 21 G C Rowntree (Leicester), 22 D E West (Leicester)



On the up: Ryan rises to the occasion as England prepare for the Calcutta Cup match at a training session this week. Photograph: Neil Munns

Ryan relishes return to national service

Lawrence Dallaglio calls him FM — the field marshal. Opponents on rugby pitches up and down the country over the past 12 years have dreamt up less complimentary titles and at some grounds he has become the pantomime villain, booed when his name is announced over the Tannoy.

It is all water off a duck's back to Dean Ryan. He even makes his return to the England side that plays Scotland at Murrayfield tomorrow sound like just another stage in an eventful sporting career. Deep down, though, one suspects that the satisfaction of making his Five Nations Championship debut at the age of 31 is profound. "Once you get back on the treadmill," he said, "you are as eager and hopeful as anyone else that the chance will come to play."

Ask Ryan whether he considers his to be a career unfulfilled — he has made only three appearances for England, on tour with a weakened team in Argentina in 1990 and against Canada at Wembley two years later — and he will look you up and down with that level, direct gaze and an air of surprise. He has, he contends, had a fantastic career with Saracens, Wasps and Newcastle and is young enough still to enjoy the fruits of professionalism.

It has not been easy for Ryan, nor has he always made it easier for himself. When he was plucked from the ranks of Her Majesty's Armed Forces as potential England material, the competition was immense. The England back row included Dean Richards, Mike Teague, Peter Winterbottom, David Egerton, and Mickey Skinner; hoving into view was a new generation, led by Ben Clarke and Tim Rodber.

Ryan looks upon his attenuated England career as opportunities he could not take, though in his defence he was not helped by injuries early in his career — he broke his forearm twice — or by the inability of club and divisional selectors, in his formative years, to decide on his best position. At 6ft 6in and 18st, Wasps frequently played him in the second row; his last appearance for England was as a blind-side flanker. Tomorrow he plays in his true position, No 8.

There has always been the lingering whiff of gunpowder about him. A former lance-corporal in the Royal Engineers, who joined as an apprentice at 16 after growing up in a Service family, he has never shied away from trouble. Many such individuals find trouble seeking them out and selectors, if they wanted, could cast him into the box marked "discipline" with a query hanging over his head.

"I have sat down for the past eight years answering questions on my 'notorious' discipline problems," Ryan said with a sigh. "I've never been sent off. I play the game a certain way, I have done for nine or ten years now and I haven't changed. I've been up there for referees to deal with if I have been involved in any incidents and there hasn't been a problem.

"If there is a public perception of me as a player, that comes from what the media writes about me." It is fair to say that Ryan has fuelled the reports by play that is on the edge of physical intimidation and by overreaction, sometimes in the wake of refereeing decisions against his team, or to incidents such as that at Bath last August, when he punched Nathan Thomas after seeing him kick Tim Stimpson on the ground. That punch earned a yellow card and a belated suspension after he was cited by Rugby Football Union officials.

It is, though, no coincidence that Ryan, like Martin Johnson, sees rugby in very black-and-white terms. Both players learnt the lore of the jungle in New Zealand. In Ryan's case, he joined the Ngongotaha club and made several appearances for Bay of Plenty. "I'm a huge admirer of their approach to the game, they're very forthright and it's something I've tried to take with me to Newcastle," he said.

Ah, Newcastle. Ryan's departure to the North East as Rob Andrew's first lieutenant may not have appealed greatly to Wasps at the time, but Ryan made a cool decision to dive into professional waters, having captained Wasps in four of his seven seasons at the club. It was a gamble that offered him personal and career development. "No one knew how it was going to go, whether there would be 600 professionals or ten scattered up and down the country.

"There was an opportunity to manage and coach and Wasps had players like Lawrence coming along. I made the decision, in consultation with my family [he and Wendy, his wife, have two sons, Conor, aged 5, and Aaron, 3] and I've had two of the most enjoyable years of my working life.

"I'm a better player now than when I was at Wasps, simply because I'm a professional player. It's moved me on as a player, as it has everyone else. I back myself to be able to train harder than most, to keep ahead of the others. But the emotions surrounding international rugby don't go away with age. The most rewarding thing for me is that, for the first time, I'm in an international squad and someone has told me to do what I do week in, week out for Newcastle.

"In previous cases, people have asked me to do things which aren't close to the way I play the game. I've struggled with that mentally, found myself falling between two stools. I'm looking forward to going into an environment confident in what I can do personally."



هكذا من الأصل

CRICKET

Paradise lost on idle England fringe players

MICHAEL HENDERSON



in Antigua

FRANK KEATING'S book on England's 1981 tour of the Caribbean was entitled *Another Bloody Day in Paradise*. Even dear old Francis, in his bonny resplendence, summoning up all his vim and vigour, might struggle to paint an idealised portrait of modern touring life.

For the players who have not been central to this series, life has been a grind. Never mind the hot weather, which may appear desirable if you are shivering in Halifax, a cricketer wants to be playing at all times. When he goes three long months without serious action, as Ashley Cowan has done, or if, like Robert Croft, he plays one Test match when he hopes to be picked every time, it can be tough sledding.

Croft was left out again yesterday morning as England stuck to the team that played in Barbados, where Mark Ramprakash plied his finger spin quite acceptably. If it was bad news for him, it was hardly less galling for BBC Wales, which has flown its reporter to the Caribbean on Croft-alert. Sadly, on the one occasion that Croft was selected, in Guyana, the chap was travelling to Paris on rugby business. They will not be singing in Llanelli tonight.

Croft is staying on as a member of the party for the five one-day internationals. Cowan and Chris Silverwood are going home, no doubt feeling a measure of relief. Cowan, brought here as the young man worth encouraging, has taken one wicket on his first tour, and Silverwood has now trousered two consecutive winter salaries as a member of an England touring team and played in a single Test.

Life has been no less hard recently for Adam Hollioake, who dropped out after the first two Tests, and John Crawley, who began the series as the preferred No 3 batsman. The modern itinerary confers few favours on those who also serve. They must sit in the shadows and await their turn, if it comes at all.

John Emburey, the assistant coach, whose responsibilities include keeping the "resting" actors in trim, admitted that "the early part of the tour was very difficult".

Emburey said: "With only two lead-up games before the first Test we were playing the Test side straight away. Once the side was announced, people like Ramprakash knew that they were not going to be considered for the first Test, so they were not going to be involved for the first five or six weeks of the tour.

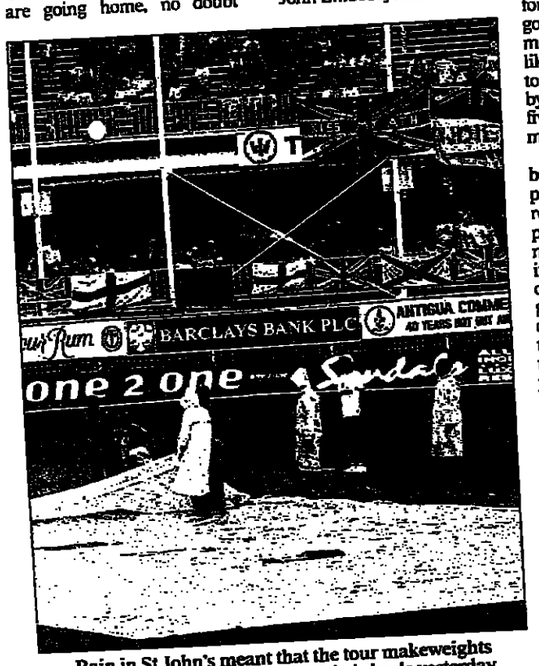
"Cowan is bowling slighly better now and he will go back into the English season in some sort of rhythm. It has been a great experience for him and he will have learnt a good deal from this tour. With bowlers like Gough and Cork around and available next summer, he and Silverwood know they will have to work very hard.

"We have tried to give them as much practice as possible, to get proper facilities away from the grounds, but the lack of cricket is difficult. You can't get a proper run-up in the nets and, in the early part of the tour, a lot of the nets were on concrete. It would be fair to say that Silverwood has not found a decent rhythm all tour.

"Before, you used to travel for four months. Now we are trying to compress the same amount of cricket, to make tours shorter. But, by making them shorter, there is less time for R and R and players are going into matches feeling more tired. Ideally, you would like more rest time even if the tour is longer. Extend the tour by a week and you can have five or six days off in the middle."

But Emburey, and everybody else, knows that that is a pipe dream. When England return home next month, the players go straight into the new season and, at the end of it, they fly to Australia, by way of a one-day shebang in Bangladesh. All the first-class cricket in Australia, including the five Tests, will be played in two months before the new year, so that January can be cleared for the World Series.

Nor does it stop there. England is staging the World Cup a year from now and, as Emburey said, the England and Wales Cricket Board will want to keep the players together in the weeks leading up to the competition and throughout it. So, if you talk about paradise to the people at the centre of this merry international circus, do not be surprised if you get some funny looks.



Rain in St John's meant that the tour makeweights were not the only ones kicking their heels yesterday



CRAIG PRENTIS / ALLSPORT

Warne is ready for a new career after enduring a disheartening day in Calcutta

Azharuddin leads assault

By Our Sports Staff

MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDIN, the India captain, hit his fifth century in seven Test innings to leave Australia staring a second successive defeat in the second Test match at Calcutta yesterday.

Azharuddin struck an unbeaten 163 as India piled up 633 for five before declaring an hour before the close on the third day at Eden Gardens with a first-innings lead of 400.

Things did not improve for Australia, as they struggled to 38 for one in their second innings by the close. Michael Slater was bowled by Javagal Srinath for five, leaving Mark Taylor, the captain, and Greg Blewett holding the fort.

Azharuddin continued his love affair with Eden Gardens, where he scored a century on debut against England. His previous six innings on the ground had yielded 110, 141, 60, 182, 109 and 52.

Azharuddin slammed 18 fours and three sixes in the only century of the India innings in which Navjot Sidhu (97), Venkat Laxman (95) and Sachin Tendulkar (79) all missed the mark on Thursday, and yesterday Rahul Dravid (86) and Saurav Ganguly (65) followed suit.

Azharuddin reached his twentieth Test century in regal style before 65,000 excited home supporters. He moved from 85 to 95 with a six and a four in an over from Gavin Robertson, the off spinner, and then brought up his century in the next over by lofting Mark Waugh into the stands for another towering six.

Shane Warne, the leg spinner, bore the brunt of the Indian assault, but found little assistance from the placid pitch as he returned figures of 0 for 147 from 42 overs. Warne, with 308 Test wickets to his name, has not suffered such humiliation since taking 1 for 150 on his debut against India at Sydney in 1991.

There was no respite for any of the other bowlers. Robertson went for 2 for 163, andMichael Kasprowicz, the fast bowler, finished with 1 for 122.

India added 94 runs in the morning for the loss of Dravid's wicket. Dravid added ten to his overnight score of 76 when he top-edged a pull off Greg Blewett and the bowler himself took the catch.

Ganguly, the local hero, and Azharuddin then piled on the misery by adding 158 for the fifth wicket. Ganguly, who rejoices in the nickname of Prince of Calcutta, disappointed his supporters when he was caught at silly point off Robertson just before tea. Azharuddin, however, handsomely compensated them with his majestic display.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 233 (S R Waugh 80, R T Ponting 60).

INDIA: First innings

V V S Laxman c Healy b Robertson	95
N S Sidhu lbw b M E Waugh	97
R Dravid c & b Blewett	86
S R Tendulkar c Blewett b Kasprowicz	79
*M Azharuddin not out	163
S Ganguly c sub b Robertson	65
†N R Mongia not out	30
Extras (b 2, lb 7, nb 9)	18
Total (5 wkts, dec)	633

A Kumble, R K Chauhan, J Srinath and V Raju did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-191, 2-207, 3-347, 4-400, 5-568

BOWLING: Kasprowicz 34-6-122-1; Wilson 12-2-50-0; Blewett 20-3-65-1; Warne 42-4-147-0; Robertson 33-2-163-2; M E Waugh 18-1-77-1.

AUSTRALIA: Second Innings

*M A Taylor not out	11
M J Slater b Srinath	5
G S Blewett not out	19
Extras (b 1, nb 2)	3
Total (1 wkt)	38

TO BAT: M E Waugh, S R Waugh, R T Ponting, †I A Healy, S K Warne, G Robertson, M S Kasprowicz and P Wilson to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-7.

BOWLING: Srinath 6-3-11-1; Ganguly 4-0-9-0; Kumble 5-1-9-0; Chauhan 4-2-6-0.

Umpires, K Parthasarathy (India) and B C Cooray (Sri Lanka)

Ntini takes first Test wicket as Sri Lanka stumble

From Barney Spender in Cape Town

TWO years ago, Makhaya Ntini, then a stripling fast bowler from an Eastern Cape township, marked his first-class debut for Border with the notable maiden scalp of England's Alec Stewart.

Yesterday, as South Africa's first black Test cricketer, he celebrated his debut by removing Aravinda de Silva, the Sri Lanka master batsman, for 77, sparking a mini-collapse that turned the match in South Africa's favour.

Ntini was called back into the attack after tea with the task of ending a delightful third-wicket partnership between De Silva and Marvan Atapattu that had taken Sri Lanka to 165 for two. He had failed to find his length during an expensive first spell of four overs for 32 runs and De Silva was looking ominous as a ninth Test century in 19 innings since last April beckoned.

De Silva dispatched the first two balls of Ntini's comeback over for four, but misjudged the fifth, a fast, skidding bouncer, and gloved a catch to Mark Boucher, the wicket-keeper. Ntini finished the day with the unconvincing figures of one for 57 off ten overs.

Paul Adams nipped in with the wickets of Arjuna Ranatunga, the captain, and Atapattu in successive balls, although there was considerable doubt over whether Ranatunga had got an edge. Romesh Kaluwitharana survived the hat-trick delivery and took Sri Lanka to 212 for five at the close.

Earlier Shaun Pollock had steered South Africa to 418, but missed out on a maiden Test century when he was last out for an excellent 92.

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

A M Bacher c Mahanama b Wickremasinghe	8
G Kirsten lbw b Vaas	62
H D Ackerman c and b Muralitharan	23
D J Cullinan b Wickremasinghe	113
*W J Cronje c Mahanama b Vaas	49
J H Kallis c Ranatunga b Muralitharan	3
S M Pollock lbw b Wickremasinghe	92
†M V Boucher run out	33
A A Donald b Muralitharan	12
P R Adams st Kaluwitharana b Muralitharan	2
M Ntini not out	3
Extras (lb 8, nb 12)	20
TOTAL	418

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-60, 3-155, 4-251, 5-260, 6-272, 7-367, 8-402, 9-414.

BOWLING: Vaas 21-2-75-2; Pushpakumara 20-3-81-0; Wickremasinghe 28.4-7-75-3; TO BAT: Muralitharan 45-8-135-4; Jayasuriya 6-1-29-0; de Silva 4-0-15-0.

SRI LANKA: First Innings

S T Jayasuriya c Boucher b Donald	17
M S Atapattu c Cullinan b Adams	60
R S Mahanama c Boucher b Donald	9
P A de Silva c Boucher b Ntini	77
*A Ranatunga c Ackerman b Adams	20
H P Tillekeratne not out	2
†R S Kaluwitharana not out	13
Extras (lb 5, nb 8, w 1)	14
TOTAL (5 wkts)	212

W P U J C Vaas, M Muralitharan, G P Wickremasinghe, K R Pushpakumara to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-36, 3-185, 4-194, 5-195.

BOWLING: Donald 11-1-67-2; Pollock 13-3-28-0; Ntini 10-1-57-1; Kallis 7-1-23-0; Adams 12-1-42-2.

Umpires: S Dunne (New Zealand) and D Orchard (South Africa).

Plethora of action delights devotees

By Simon Wilde

A UNIQUE event takes place today in the serendipitous world of cricket when four Test matches take place on the same day. Games between India and Australia in Calcutta, South Africa and Sri Lanka in Cape Town and West Indies and England in Antigua are already under way. Today, they are joined in action by Zimbabwe and Pakistan, who meet in Harare.

The past six months alone has witnessed a dozen Test series and a similar number of one-day jamborees, on four continents, in places as far afield as Toronto and Auckland, Jamaica and Brisbane. One match finishes and another is already taking place.

A Test match began in Bridgetown on March 12 and there has been Test cricket on every day since — and is due to be on every day until April 1. No joke.

A contributing factor is the elevation to Test status of Sri Lanka (in 1982) and Zimbabwe (1992). The year that Zimbabwe were admitted, South Africa were allowed to resume playing at international level. Even so, there are still only nine Test-playing countries, which means one is not in action today — New Zealand.

Any anorak with access to the Internet could, if they wished, monitor the progress of live Test cricket for up to 17 hours today. In Britain, they would need to get up at around 4am to catch the first delivery in Calcutta.

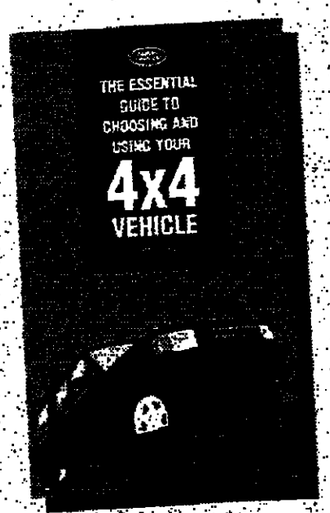
Once stumps were drawn there, at around breakfast time, they could pick up Cape Town and Harare, where play closes in late afternoon, before catching the start of the afternoon session in Antigua.

West Indies and England should finish playing at around 9pm, possibly later, depending on how long it takes them to bowl 90 overs.

There have been several instances of three Test matches taking place concurrently since Colombo, Faisalabad and Port of Spain all staged games on March 16, 1984, but never has a foursome been close.

One final bizarre note: the first time two matches were played on the same day — January 13, 1930 — only *three* countries were involved. That winter England sent touring teams both to New Zealand and West Indies.

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CYCLING

Jalabert set for tough Italian job

By Jeremy Whittle

THE professional cycling World Cup series begins today with *La Primavera*, the Milan-San Remo Italian Classic. While the Tour de France dominates in July, the World Cup holds sway from March through to October with a series of one-day events.

The rigours of the modern Tour de France mean that only a handful of riders are capable of meeting the physical and psychological demands that guarantee success.

In contrast, the World Cup has the flavour of a knock-out competition, guaranteeing media and sponsorship interest with plenty of room for opportunistic riders to make the most of hours of live television coverage and countless columns of newsprint.

Today's Classic, which speeds across the Lombardy Plains before climbing through Piedmont and then dropping down to the Italian Riviera, is one of the focal points of the Italian sporting calendar.

Theworld No l, Laurent Jalabert, of France, winner in San Remo in 1995, is a strong contender, but he will have to hold off the challenge of Frank Vandenbroucke, of Belgium, winner last weekend of the Paris-Nice race.

British hopes are thin on the ground. Chris Boardman is still recovering from flu, as are Jeremy Hunt and David Millar, while Max Sciandri, one of the best Classic riders in the professional bunch, is still recovering from a winter dogged by domestic burglaries and training accidents.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

BASLE: Swiss Open: Second round: P G Christensen (Den) bt T Johansson (Swe) 15-3, 12-15, *15-5; M Lundgaard (Den) bt M Mansky (Ger) 15-12, 15-13; F Normadi (Fra) bt Wei Lu (HK) 15-6, 15-6; K Tonsaker (Den) bt D Pompratz (Ger) 15-8, 15-3; A Virananta (Indo) bt T Sogaard (Den) 15-11, 15-11; P-E Hoyer-Larsen (Den) bt Feng Zhu (China) 15-3, 15-7; J Supriantio (Indo) bt M Hagberg (Swe) 15-3, 15-5; Sun Yun (China) bt B Flockhart (Scot) 15-6, 15-2.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: London Leopards 81 Crystal Palace 72.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Toronto 104 Denver 102 (OT); Indiana 95 Washington 91; Atlanta 84 Milwaukee 81; New Jersey 93 Orlando 87; Portland 82 New York 77; Dallas 93 Golden State 82 (OT); Houston 106 Boston 96; Cleveland 90 Sacramento 86.

BILLIARDS

ASHOVER HALL, Chesterfield: Strachen British Open: First round: D Sneddon (Scot) bt M Ferreira (India) 739-455; R Hindran (Aus) bt B Dix (Eng) 836-187; F Goodwin (Eng) bt P Sheehan (Eng) 831-432; D Sekar (India) bt B Bhaskar (India) 408-388; A Agarwal (India) bt N Bagley (Eng) 537-477; R Williams (Eng) bt A Goenka (India) 540-329; R Close (Eng) bt M Spormann (Bel) 634-381; N Patel (India) bt S Hardcastle (Eng) 636-345; D Joshi (India) bt C Sylvester (Wales) 479-413. Second round: E Hughes (Ire) bt M Widman (Eng) 717-366; D Causser (Eng) bt Sneddon 1541-204; Gaichrist bt Patel 612-476; Joshi bt C Shutt (Eng) 723-577; R Chapman (Eng) bt S Agarwal (India) 847-361; Sethi bt A Agarwal 783-464; M Russell (Eng) bt Close 479-452; Feldman bt Williams 682-394.

BOWLS

DARLINGTON: Women's home international indoor championship: Scotland bt England 132-90. (Scotland skips first): J Lindores lost to D Hankin 18-19; J Conlan bt M Price 20-12; J Sykes bt J Roylance 29-13; A Simpson bt D Anderson 20-11; E Wren bt M Shaw 27-9; E McGarvie lost to N Shaw 19-26. Final placings: 1, Scotland 6pts, plus 104 shots; 2, England 4pts, plus 59; 3, Ireland 2pts, minus 50; 4 Wales 0pts, minus 113.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD FINAL (first day of five): Perth: Tasmania 244-8 (D F Hills 49, J Cox 96 not out) v Western Australia.

FOOTBALL

Thursday's late results

CUP WINNERS' CUP: Quarter-finals: Second Leg: Chelsea 3 Real Betis 1 (Chelsea win 5-2 on agg); VfB Stuttgart 2 Slavia Prague 0 (VfB Stuttgart win 3-1 on agg); Valencia 5 Roda JC 0 (Valencia win 9 1 on agg).

RYMAN LEAGUE: Full Members Cup: Fourth round: Carshalton 1 Maidenhead United 2.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Norwich 0 Charlton 2. Postponed: Queens Park Rangers v Millwall.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Stowe 0 Hereford 0.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Everton 3 Ipswich 2.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Premier League Trophy: Under-16: Quarter-final replay: Staffordshire 1 Durham 0. Snickers Trophy: Quarter-final: Tunbridge Wells (Kent) 1 Tunbridge Wells (Kent) 1.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Mexico 1 Paraguay 1 (in Mexico).

LIBERTADORES CUP: Group one: Deportivo Cuito (Ecu) 1 Barcelona (Ecu) 1. Bucaramanga (Col) 0 America (Col) 1. Group three: Cerro Porteno (Par) 1 Olimpia (Par) 2. Colo Colo (Chile) 2 Universidad Catolica (Chile) 0. Group four: Nacional (Uru) 1 Penarol (Uru) 4. Oriente Petrolero (Bol) 1 Bolivar (Bol) 1. Group five: Colon (Arg) 1 Alianza (Peru) 0.

GOLF

LISBON: Portuguese Open: Leaders after two rounds (GB and Ire unless stated): 134: W Riley (Aus) 68, 66. 137: P Mitchell 67, 70; D Gilford 70, 67. 138: J Remesy (Fr) 70, 68. 139: D Carter 73, 66; P Hedblom (Swe) 72, 67. 140: J Cozens (Arg) 69, 71; H Nystrom (Swe) 72, 68; I Garbutt 72, 68. 141: T Johnstone (Zim) 68, 73. 142: A Oldcorn 71, 71; G Owen 72, 70; M-A Martin (Sp) 70, 72; F Hongo (Swe) 71, 71; S Bennett 74, 68; F Jacobsson (Swe) 72, 70; P Baker 72, 70.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 6 Florida 1; Boston 4 Toronto 0; Philadelphia 3 Anaheim 3; Chicago 1 Montreal 0; Colorado 4 Phoenix 3.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Sydney City 8 North Sydney 26.

RUGBY UNION

A Internationals

Scotland A	42	England A	14

Scotland A: Tries: Officer 2, Hodge, Kerr, Penalty, Reid. Cons: Hodge 3. Pens: Hodge 2. England A: Try: Chapman. Pens: Butland 3.

Ireland A	27	Wales A	42

Ireland A: Tries: Burke, McIvor, McWeeney. Cons: Burke 2. Pens: Burke 2. Wales A: Tries: Wetherly 2, Andrew, Moore, A Thomas, C Wyatt. Cons: A Thomas 4. Pens: A Thomas 3.
(at Limerick)

Under-21 Internationals

Scotland U21	16	England U21	32

Scotland U21: Try: Petrie. Con: Paterson. Pens: Paterson 3. England U21: Tries: Balshaw 2, Yapp 2. Cons: Yapp 3. Pen: Yapp. Dropped goal: Yapp.
(at Inverleith)

Ireland U21	27	Wales U21	25

Ireland U21: Tries: Horan, Tierney. Con: McCullough. Pens: McCullough 4. Dropped goal: B Cunningham. Wales U21: Try: Wells. Con: Jones. Pens: Jarvis 6.
(at Donnybrook)

Super 12 tournament

Otago	41	Coastal Sharks	35

Otago: Tries: Maka 2, Brown, Leslie, Fit. Cons: Brown 5. Pens: Brown 2. Sharks: Tries: Teichmann 2, Joubert 2, Minnaar. Cons: Joubert 2. Pens: Joubert, Hornbell.
(in Dunedin)

CLUB MATCH: Kelso 11 Langholm 23.

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Sixth leg (São Sebastião to Fort Lauderdale): Positions (at 1200 GMT yesterday, with miles to Fort Lauderdale): 1, Silk Cut (GB) 3,024.1; 2, Toshiba (US) 3,026.6; 3, Chessie Racing (US) 3,030.3; 4, EF Language (Swe) 3,030.5, 5, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 3,031.2; 6, Mant Cup (Monaco) 3,037.5; 7, BrunoSunergy (Hol) 3,040; 8, EF Education (Swe) 3,045.4, 9, Swedish Match (Swe) 3,057.8.

SPEEDWAY

CHALLENGE MATCH: Swindon 41 (J Nilsen 14, L Adams 12), Oxford 49 (J Crump 14, P Hurry 11, C Boyce 11). STAR CUP: Ipswich 60 Kings Lynn 30.

SQUASH

ANTWERP, Belgium: Cup Olympics: First round: M Martin (Aus) bt S Macfie (Scot) 9-0, 9-5, 9-2; P Beams (NZ) bt V Atkinson (Hol) 9-1, 9-1, 9-3; C Owens (Aus) bt R Macrae (Eng) 9-2, 9-1, 9-4; J Martin (Eng) bt R Grinham (Aus) 9-1, 9-0, 9-5; C Nitch (SA) bt N Tippett (Aus) 9-5, 9-2, 9-5; F Geaves (Eng) bt J Trenfield (Eng) 9-5, 9-6, 9-7; L Joyce (NZ) bt R Cooper (Aus) 9-0, 10-8, 9-5; S Wright (Eng) bt K Hannes (Bel) 9-1, 9-4, 9-5. Quarter-finals: Martin bt Beams 9-1, 9-4, 9-6, Martin bt Owens 9-3, 9-2, 9-3; Geaves bt Nitch 9-4, 9-2, 0-9, 9-1; Wright bt Joyce 9-7, 9-5, 9-1.

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton Championships: Men: First round: G Pozzi (It) bt R Jabali (Bz) 6-4, 6-3, D Nestor (Can) bt M Godwin (SA) 6-2, 7-6; T Martin (US) bt J Gallmard (Fr) 4-6, 7-6, 7-5; L Arnold (Arg) bt J Van Herck (Bel) 6-1, 3-6, 6-1; S Dosedel (Cz) bt N Lapentti (Ec) 3-6, 7-6, 6-4; P Haarhuis (Hol) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-4, 6-3; D Van Scheppingen (Hol) bt S Draper (Aus) 6-7, 7-5, 6-3; J Tarango (US) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 6-1, 7-5; S Stergiakis (Arm) bt D Norman (Bel) 6-4, 6-2; M Woodforde (Aus) bt J-M Gambill (US) 6-1, 6-2; J Couvet (US) bt R Vasek (Cz) 6-1, 6-0; N Escudo (Fr) bt L Hewitt (Aus) 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; M Tebbutt (Aus) bt S Stolle (Aus) 6-7, 6-2, 7-5; S Campbell (US) bt O Gross (Ger) 6-4, 6-2; G Bianco (Sp) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 7-5, 6-4; F Roig (Sp) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 7-5, 2-6, 6-1; B McPhee (US) bt A Cherkasov (Rus) 2-6, 6-3, 6-4; M Filippini (Uru) bt I Hrebenger (Switz) 1-6, 6-1, 6-2; D Hrbaty (Slovakia) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-3, 6-2. Women: First round: L McNeil (US) bt P Hy-Boulais (Can) 6-0, 1-6, 7-5; O Barabanschikova (Belo) bt N Dechy (Fr) 7-6, 2-6, 6-1; A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) bt M Oremans (Hol) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; S Plischke (Austria) bt K Studenikova (Slovakia) 7-6, 7-5; K Habsudova (Slovakia) bt W Probst (Ger) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; A Miller (US) bt L Ghirardi-Rubbi (Fr) 6-4, 6-7, 6-1; A Mauduene (Fr) bt L Golarsa (It) 7-5, 6-1; C Rubin (US) bt L Nemechova (Cz) 6-3, 6-3; M Saeki (Japan) bt A Gersi (Cz) 6-1, 6-2; T Panova (Russ) bt M Washington (US) 6-2, 7-5; S Williams (US) bt D Chladkova (Cz) 6-4, 6-0; C Torrens-Valero (Sp) bt A Stowerson (US) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2; B Ritner (Ger) bt J Watanabe (US) 1-6, 6-3, 6-2; A Carlsson (Swe) bt A Rippner (US) 7-6, 7-5; M Grzybowska (Pol) bt J Capriati (US) 6-0, 7-5; Y Yoshida (Japan) bt K-A Guse (Aus) 0-6, 7-5, 6-1; M Lucic (Cro) bt M D Oliva (Arg) 6-3, 6-0; Shu-Ting Wang (Taipei) bt F Lubiani (It) 6-4, 6-1; J Lee (Taipei) bt N Kijimuta (Japan) 6-1, 6-4; A Frazier (US) bt P Stoyanova (Bul) 6-0, 3-6, 6-4; J Halard (Fr) bt M Serna (Spa) 3-6, 7-5, 6-3; T Snyder (US) bt E Makarova (Russ) walkover.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Leander favoured to complete hat-trick

ROWING: Leander lead off 420 crews in the Tideway Head at 10am today in an attempt to win the title for the third successive year (Mike Rosewell writes). They are crewed by eight internationals — Matthew Pinsent, Tim Foster, James Cracknell, Steve Redgrave, Bobby Thatcher, Ben Hunt-Davis and Tony Garbett, of Great Britain, and Luka Grubor, of Croatia.

Three of the crew — Hunt-Davis, Pinsent and David Nelson, the cox — will coach the Oxford women's Boat Race crews in their annual fixtures against Cambridge at Henley at 2pm tomorrow.

Storm clouds gather

ICE HOCKEY: Manchester Storm and Sheffield Steelers will be eliminated from the Superleague play-offs this evening, if they lose to Ayr Scottish Eagles and Cardiff Devils respectively. Ayr and Cardiff won the first of the best-of-three semi-finals on Wednesday and, even if they lose tonight, will be favoured to go through on home ice when the third matches are played tomorrow.

Roach record for Tidiman

FISHING: Paul Tidiman, from Clacton-on-Sea, has captured the eight-year-old roach record with a fish weighing 4lb 4oz. The roach was taken from a 19-acre lake in Essex and beat by a single ounce the previous record. Earlier this month a record zander of 19lb 6oz was taken from a Fenland drain, and last month the pike record was broken with a fish of 45lb 15oz from an Oxfordshire lake.

Trust bids for Wembley

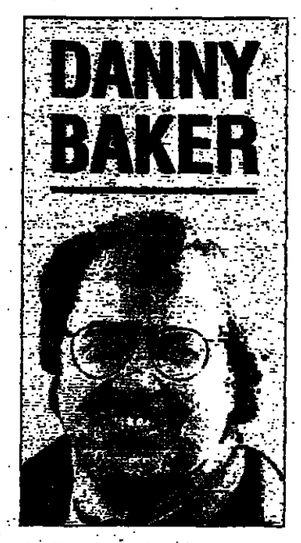
FOOTBALL: The English National Stadium Trust yesterday finalised its bid to buy Wembley Stadium and begin a £200 million redevelopment. Arsenal last week announced that they had made a formal offer to purchase the stadium and Wembley plc now has until the end of the month to decide between the two bids.

Troke ends retirement

BADMINTON: Helen Troke, England's most successful singles player of the 1980s, is making a surprise comeback at the age of 33. Troke, a former winner of both Commonwealth and European titles, believes that although she has not competed since the Barcelona Olympics she can still do better than many of England's leading players.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Ferguson waving the long goodbye



In the early hours of Friday November 8, 1888, a policeman's torch shone through the cracked and grimy window of a ground-floor flat in Miller's Court, East London. Inside lay one of the most appalling sights ever to greet human eyes. It was the remains of Mary Jane Kelly, the last victim of Jack The Ripper.

So thorough, so frenzied, so complete had been the devastation wrought upon the 25-year-old victim's body that it is generally believed that the attack caused the perpetrator's mind to unhinge completely, leading to incarceration as a hopeless lunatic and eventual suicide. At the risk of trivialising such an event, I can't help thinking that this is what happened to poor old Manchester United. Ever since they took the nation's breath away in the 5-3 destruction of Chelsea at Stamford Bridge they have drooped around like a team satiated, incurious, spent.

Many are saying that they are exhausted or holed with too many injuries, but anyone who has seen the manager and players interviewed over the past few weeks surely won't have failed to notice an odd, muted quality to their replies. Alex Ferguson, in particular, seems very laid-back about recent events and in the calm, reasonable quotes he gave immediately after the Monaco disaster he gave off all the defiant, spitting urgency of an old Amsterdam hippy after 30 puffs of the finest. Even his famously crimson hooter refused to glow in protest and sat there an unnatural flesh colour as, just an inch below it, Alex went so far as to summon up a thin little smile while reflecting on his empire's collapse.

I have seen such smiles under the glare of bright lights before. Madam Ceausescu smiled like that when the people knocked on the door asking for Romania back. In the film *Being There*, Peter Sellers smiled like that as experts finally discovered he was an idiot all along. And Boris Yeltsin smiles like that when boozed to the hatband (ie, constantly). So a tyrant, a charlatan and a drunk. Alex Ferguson is none of these things, so what's going on? Well, run for your lives, readers, I have another theory and this one doesn't drag in the Whitechapel murderer.

He's resigned. Alex Ferguson has resigned. He will not be there next September. Technically he has already gone. I think he has told the players — weeks ago; right after the Chelsea match, in fact, when their sense of invincibility might absorb the shock — and sort of hoped the news that this season would be his last would cement their resolve to "do it for the gaffer". Instead it has made them more frightened, anxious and depressed. They feel sad and lost and are playing like it. The more I think about it, the more I am sure this is what is going on.

In his answers on Wednesday night, Ferguson's dis-engagement from the moment yahooed all the symptoms of someone indulging questions that are rendered meaningless by a bigger splash soon to come. His wistfulness, the sanguine smile, the time he had right after the heartbreak revealed to me a man who, having made the decision to move, suddenly realised how much he'll miss the old place, even the defects. Suddenly he really could see it was only a game and one that will soon be over.

Years ago, of course, such announcements would have been leaked or simply released as part of day-to-day football, but not any more. The departure of Ferguson, probably Brian Kidd, too, and the fracturing shock wave that would set off at Old Trafford is, I think we can safely assume, index-linked to a much wider pound note. Succession must be properly established and brave new worlds predicted. But I am convinced that is what is going on. The upcoming World Cup will be used as a convenient diversion for massive summer upheaval at Manchester United.

The final wheel on this train of thought is more shaky but, I'd hate to see it realised then have to sulk for months because of uncharacteristic professional caution. Here goes. After the interview, as Alex moved away to rejoin his thunderstruck players, the cameras come back to the pundit team of Bob Wilson, Terry Venables and Barry Venison. Straightaway Bob and Barry began fessing up the shallow commiserations. But Terry. Terry didn't speak for a bit. He seemed preoccupied. He continued to stare toward the studio monitor where, perhaps in his mind's eye, Ferguson looked out at him. Perhaps "It's all yours mate" was the clairaudient message he was hearing. Perhaps I read too much into TV coverage. But nobody on earth can convice me that, as Tel snapped out of it and rejoined the post-match mouthings, his nose was the merest shade more crimson than it had been seconds before. It is my unshakeable belief that history will show it was at that very instant, on live television, the torch of Old Trafford had been passed on.



Tel-tale or tall tale? Venables may have been more than a face in the crowd at Old Trafford

Why Bowie should cash in on greatest hit

Did you know that David Bowie has eyes of two different colours? Well, he has, and he got that way when he was 12 years old after he got into a fight with a boy named George Underwood. It seems they both liked the same girl at school and it was during this ragged duel that something not normally glimpsed in schoolboy fights suddenly happened. Someone actually landed a punch. And it was no ordinary punch. It was the punch that changed the colour of David Bowie's eye.

Now I ask you ladies and gentlemen. How hard must you be hit that it actually makes your eye change colour? Do they change instantly or does it slowly come out overnight, like a shiner? Maybe, as in a cartoon, your eyes really are capable of spinning around like wheels on a fruit machine if bopped with enough force, coming to rest, as it were, on one cherry and one lemon.

For many years I believed that when referees stared into boxer's faces it was to see if they were dazed and thereby in no state to continue. However, after receiving confirmation of the blow upon David Bowie I now realise a good ref is merely checking to see if the headlamps still match. To my knowledge, no boxer in recent years has suffered such an ignominy. And yet it happened to David Bowie. He has one green and one blue.

It is this garish evidence of a violent youth that I am urging the former Ziggy Stardust and Thin White Duke to present at every school in the country as solid proof that No Good Can Come of Boxing. Sure, he may have to take along some old LP covers and *Q* magazine testimonials to convince today's kids that he actually is a rock legend, but surely while his career is quiet is the ideal time discreetly to Give Something Back to the Kids. The youngsters love the chart heroes and pretty much do what they say — so is Bowie, Minister For Banishing Boxing, such an outlandish leap?

I believe a twin-hued David crossing the country in a specially equipped train really can point the way to a Safer Sporty Britain. Then we might be spared the grotesque spectacle of two teenage Sheffield girls hammering lumps out of each other on Tuesday night simply because today's pop stars are such an ineffectual bunch that young gals are forced to scrape their own entertainment.

United draw close to title

PREDICTION: The title will go all the way to the last game of the season with Manchester United needing only a draw to retain the championship. They get it.

FACT: Paul Ince's middle names are Emerson Carlysle.

Spelling out true loyalty

FACT: In 1990 a West London man decided to save money and etch his own tattoo. It eventually covered the entire lower part of his leg and shows a passable lion draped in the flag of St George.

Beneath this are the words: CHESLEA FC.

Directors show their class

Newcastle United plc says it does not find it "appropriate" at the moment to censure Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall over their revolting, and, let's be frank about this, hilarious remarks made about the club and its supporters. Oddly, when Savo Milosevic replied to baying hostility from the Aston Villa terraces with an honest and open-faced spit he was fined and transfer-listed with much talk about football requiring more from its representatives in this day and age.

That said, I think we have now wrung every bit of fun there is to be had from the Newcastle story and those Geordies who still affect outrage are only doing it to vent their spleen at the floundering club without being laid open to claims that they are being disloyal to their boring pancake of a team. After all, why act so spurned? Was there love for the board before? Leadership? A sincere belief that the price and quality of replica shirts was free of cynicism and closer to a Buddhist banquet than the street value of crack in Moss Side? What exactly is everyone so surprised about? Remember, Magpies, this is the club that has already sold you this season the idea of Ian Rush as a viable strike force.

Oh sure, there is a scandal going on at St James', but to pretend it is about the attitude of directors toward the serfs betrays a football gaucheness of staggering magnitude. Chairmen and directors are dundering control-freak bores. They are wily, manipulative, duplicitous and vain. This is how things are and it doesn't just apply to saintly and sentimental old football, either. Did the Eighties mean nothing to you people? It may not make their rotten old views any more correct, but for anyone to claim that before the story broke they were ignorant of a social divide and massive exploitation in football can only be accused of rank mischief-making.

More to the point, clubs need a class system or else the places will become unpoliceable.

Supporter and businessman can only survive so long as they remain opposites. Actually, I've always thought it might be made law that any director who attends matches wearing an old-fashioned striped scarf over their Hugo Boss overcoat should be made to sit in the middle of the pitch before every home game and eat the programme. Stop it. That's not what you're here for, you are creeping us out. After all, any fan who has mistakenly wandered toward the executive lounge after a match knows just how egalitarian football behind the scenes really is.

Shepherd and Hall were absent from the ground on Wednesday, probably on police advice. They may be sacrificially forced out but their quitting will not drop the price of replica shirts. However, if they do choose to return they should eschew their spot in the despised directors' box and seek forgiveness in the budget section. Comfort yourselves with Luke 14:10: "Go and sit in the lowest place so your host may come and say, 'friend go up higher'. And everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Meanwhile, the Geordie fans themselves might want to reflect upon the opening words of music hall star Jimmy James's 1940s stage routine. He would be standing idly smoking a cigarette when a flat-capped stooge would tap him on the shoulder.

Stooge: "Hey, are you putting it around that I'm barmy?"

James: "Why? Did you want it kept a secret?"

☐ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday at 11.30am and 5.30pm.

Injuries give Hoddle World Cup headache

BY OLIVER HOLT

THE bright spot at Bisham Abbey yesterday was Paul Merson. He said things were getting easier, that he was beginning to cope better with the swings in fortune that football can bring. Judging by the rest of the news from the England squad preparing for the friendly international with Switzerland on Wednesday, though, he must be just about the only one.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, admitted that the scene in his camp was more like an episode from *Emergency Ward 10* than a concerted preparation for a World Cup warm-up game. The list of injuries got so bad that one Swiss journalist took umbrage and berated Hoddle for not taking the forthcoming tie seriously.

Hoddle, though, seemed dismayed by the extent of the problems that have beset him. The Manchester United quartet of Gary Neville, Phil Neville, Paul Scholes and Andy Cole have already been ruled out. Six others, including Graeme Le Saux, Andy Hinchcliffe and Nicky Butt, are also significant doubts and are unlikely to train until after the weekend.

Hoddle said that the spate of problems had pushed him towards calling an emergency summit of all possible candidates for his final World Cup squad of 22 before the next warm up again against Portugal in a month's time. The purpose, he said, would be to bring everyone up to date with plans and discuss tactics so that they could achieve some degree of consistency, rather than be forced into telling players individually.

Those plans, of course, may startle clubs, who will be asked to release players from their own rehabilitation programmes, but Hoddle is concerned that his preparations for France are being seriously undermined and he cannot afford another week of disruption in the run up to the finals.

"It is a nightmare scenario really," Hoddle said. "It is almost as bad as I can remember. We need to have some time to talk about preparations, tactics, everything. Maybe I will have to make a situation with all the clubs where we have a players' seminar.

"As long as they are not in hospital or in plaster, I don't see any reason why we could not do it. We cannot go into the World Cup preparation in May when we have not seen a player for four or five months. If you fast forward to May and our warm-up game with Saudi Arabia, if this situation was repeated, I would have a hell of a headache.

"We can still put out a quality side and you never write any international off because when one door shuts for someone another one opens for someone else. But you have also got to have one eye on your principles and where I feel we are going as far as the World Cup goes."

Hoddle refused to be drawn into a discussion on the likelihood of Scholes being available for France. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, had suggested on Wednesday night that his midfield player might have to have an operation on a troublesome knee at the end of the domestic season, something that would leave Scholes just 23 days to be fit for England's opening World Cup fixture.

Hoddle said that Scholes had been sent for a scan and that he would be able to say more when the results were known. Ferguson, though, will be keen to keep him available for the title run-in now that Arsenal have sparked it into life and it could quickly escalate into a club against country tussle.

There are no such worries for Merson. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, agreed to release him from his side's Nationwide League game against Norwich City on Sunday so that he could take part in the preparations and Merson said things seemed to be improving for him in the North East.

"It is a different Paul Merson now from the one that played for England in the past," he said. "Things are getting easier for me now in terms of staying on an even keel but I know people are still waiting for me to fall back into my old ways. That keeps me going."



Merson leads from the front in training yesterday

City attracting boardroom intrigue

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

WITH the FA Carling Premiership in temporary hibernation today because of the international programme next week, the spotlight falls on the Nationwide League. Relegation and promotion are now real issues, no longer figments of wild imaginations, and there are few more important fixtures this afternoon than the first division match between Manchester City and Sheffield United at Maine Road.

City are attempting to avoid the drop into the second division for the first time in the club's history and United are chasing a place in the Premiership via the play-offs. However, it is in the boardroom where most of the intrigue will lie, with David Bernstein, the new City chairman, and Mike McDonald, the chairman of Sheffield United plc, taking tea and biscuits.

Bernstein took over at Maine Road after Francis Lee's resignation last Monday and is adamant that he will keep control of the club unless there is an exceptional offer. "If anything does happen, it will only be in the best interests of the club and of the share price for our shareholders," he said yesterday. "We now have a very strong, committed board who have every intention of going forward with the club."

McDonald may have other ideas. Although he resigned as chairman of United earlier this month, shortly after the departure of Nigel Spackman, the manager, he retained the same position with the plc at Bramall Lane and is a long-time City supporter. He described Bernstein's succession of Lee as "rearranging the deckchairs on the *Titanic*" and is advising one of the three consortiums believed to planning bids to buy into Maine Road.

"There has honestly been no hint of an approach from anybody," Bernstein said. "I have seen things written this week that suggest things are about to happen, but you normally find that the things that seem to be about to take place are the ones that are the most unlikely.

"I want to underline that we are in a much stronger position than many people think and we have some very powerful friends. Despite all the talk, there has not been one official approach from anyone wanting to take over the club."

The thoughts at St Andrew's, meanwhile, should be concentrated solely on football, with Birmingham City pushing for a place in the play-offs and Nottingham Forest hoping to cement their position at the top. The sides have similar recent records, having lost only one of their past eight matches.

"Birmingham have done very well recently so we're guaranteed a difficult game," Dave Bassett, the Forest manager, said. "They don't lose many games at St Andrew's and we will need to be on top form. Our confidence is high at the moment and we're looking forward to the challenge."

Followers of Oldham Athletic are not a happy lot and are planning a protest before the second division match against Watford, the leaders, at Boundary Park this afternoon. The fans feel that JW Lees, the brewery firm, is not supporting the club as it should be — by providing substantial investment — and therefore they will be calling time on the company by forsaking their pre-match pints of beer.

"It is time for them to invest in the club or move aside to allow somebody else to have a go," Carl Marsden, co-founder of the Stop the Rot campaign, said.

Unhappy England forced into September qualifiers

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

ENGLAND will begin their qualifying campaign for the 2000 European championship finals, to be held in Holland and Belgium, with an away match against Sweden on September 5.

Much haggling over dates for the group five fixtures, during which Poland apparently reneged on earlier agreements, left Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, far from happy.

With only ten dates available — eight of them in four "double-header" international weeks — Hoddle had agreed a schedule that he felt offered his side the best chance of reaching the finals. England's historically poor record in September meant that Hoddle was reluctant to play the strongest rivals in the first full month of the season.

However, although the Football Association was satisfied with the draft fixtures drawn up by the five countries concerned, the Poles changed their minds. With further discussions bringing no agreement, the group programme was decided by the drawing of lots in Switzerland yesterday.

"It is very frustrating," Hoddle said. "We were very close to an agreement and it always seems to be us who gets the rough end of the stick."

Hoddle's only consolation is that England's three hardest home games — against Sweden, Bulgaria and Poland — can be played at Wembley before it is closed down and redeveloped. They finish their itinerary with two matches in five days, at home against Luxembourg and away to Poland.

Wales will open their qualifying programme with a home match against Italy, the group one favourites, on September 5, followed by an away game against Denmark on October 10. The group also involves Belarus and Switzerland, who Wales meet at home in their last match on October 9, 1999.

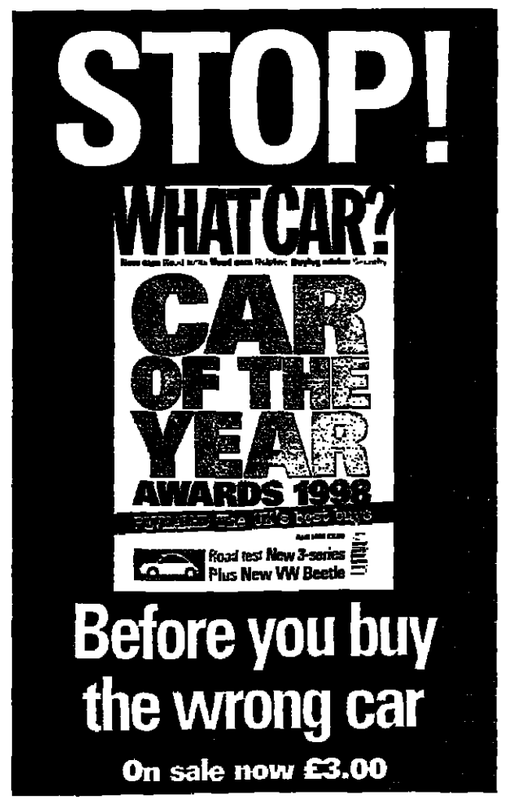
Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, has asked for a swift answer from Paul Gascoigne over his proposed £3 million move from Rangers to the Riverside Stadium.

Robson, who has agreed the fee and offered Gascoigne a contract worth £5 million, said yesterday: "I need to know where I stand.

"We've got a lot of important league games and the Coca-Cola Cup final coming up. I've left a message that I need to know as soon as possible. We've given Paul's advisor an offer and they wanted a bit of time to talk about it.

"It's in the balance whether we sign him or not. We're waiting for an answer to the offer of personal terms and there's no update until we get one."

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING FIXTURES: England: Group five: 1998: Sept 5 v Sweden (A), Oct 10 v Bulgaria (H), Oct 14 v Luxembourg (A) 1999: Mar 27 v Poland (H); June 5 v Sweden (H); June 9 v Bulgaria (A); Sept 4 v Luxembourg (H); Sept 8 v Poland (A) Wales: Group one: 1998: Sept 5 v Italy (H), Oct 10 v Denmark (A), Oct 14 v Belarus (H) 1999: Mar 31 Switzerland (A), June 5 v Italy (A), June 9 v Denmark (H) Sept 4 v Belarus (A) Oct 9 v Switzerland (H).



FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Forget this nonsense about problems with the England manager

McMANAMAN'S WORLD



There is a nagging undercurrent of suggestion when I join up with the England squad. Just about every time I am selected, a little bit of gossip hints at problems between the manager and myself. It surfaced strongly for the game against Chile, when Robbie Fowler was rested. The suggestion was that Glenn Hoddle was dissatisfied with both of us, and there was another reference to the fact that I missed the Tournoi de France last summer through injury.

I heard, from many "experts", that the gaffer did not like the attitude of myself and Robbie, and that he was also supposedly paying us back for missing the summer tournament. The time has come to set the record straight. As far as I am concerned, the England manager has no problems with me. I did miss the summer games for my country, but not through choice. I had a troublesome knee injury and it had bothered me for much of the previous season. Something had to be done.

Admittedly, the treatment and surgery came at the wrong time, but, in football, there is never a right time. I had to make a decision about my future. It was a tough decision, but, touch wood, I have not missed a game for Liverpool or an England squad this season, and I think that is because I had the work done.

If I hadn't, I may well have suffered this season like I did last time around, and I could even have missed the World Cup finals. I was in constant contact with the England manager, and he made it clear that he felt I should have the knee sorted out early. He has always been fine with me, so why is there all this fuss still? I don't know, but I do know that I am totally committed to the England cause.

I enjoy teaming up with the squad immensely. There is a great atmosphere, and England training is refreshing, a chance to experience different ideas, to try different routines and systems.

Glenn is always experimenting with systems in the build-up to the World Cup finals, and you can't fail to be impressed and excited. His mind is not set. He has decided he needs flexibility for the different scenarios that he will experience when England get to France.

It suits me. I have played in different positions for Liverpool this season, and I seem to have settled in a slightly wider position within a 4-4-2 formation. For England, I have played in the centre of midfield, in front of the midfield, and behind a sole striker. The manager has said he would like to try two men behind one forward, and I played a similar role at Tottenham last Saturday.

I enjoyed it. I got a couple of goals, which helped, and I think I am playing quite well this season. I would love a chance to do the same for England, but I would love the chance to play anywhere. Every player is the same — they are happy to get in the side in any position.

It may come as a surprise to those people who equate my style with my attitude, but I am totally committed. I would never bleat about it, but there have been many occasions when I have joined up with an injury and then stayed to have treatment in order to get fit so I could play. I am in a position where I get plenty of knocks, so I do tend to arrive at the England camp with bumps and niggles, but that has never stopped me wanting to play.

There is also a great respect for the manager among his players. Without going over the top, I am very keen to get that point across. It can be a little depressing when there is this constant hinting at problems that don't exist. It can make even the most confident player a little uncertain.

There is a similar situation with talk of goals from me for my country. I still haven't scored for England, but the manager has been very helpful and very supportive. I haven't got a complex. I know it will come because I have scored 11 goals for Liverpool this season, and from midfield. As long as I'm patient and keep the right attitude, I will prove for England, as I have done for Liverpool, that I can maintain a respectable goal-scoring record.

Funny business

I read with great interest the stories surrounding two directors of Newcastle United, and my first reaction was one of shock. The second, like most people in football, was to enjoy a bit of dressing-room banter, just as I'm sure there was a light-hearted view in the Newcastle dressing-room.

There are some serious points. I can't believe that everything said in the Sunday paper article was true. To say that Andy Cole was sold with a career-threatening injury is a bit of an insult to Manchester United. I can't accept that. United would have had their own expert medical team have a close look at him, and anyway, the shin splints injury he had is a nasty one — but hardly career-threatening. I'm sure that was exaggerated. As an outsider, the other point I can make is that the Newcastle players will not have taken the story to heart.

It certainly would not have affected them on the pitch, and I reckon that they will probably just have had a good laugh, especially about some of the supposed comments on the players. Alan Shearer, I'm sure, will have taken it very lightly, and then got on with the serious business on the pitch.

Things like that tend not to affect the way a player performs. It is certainly true that the Newcastle players will want it all sorted out, purely to get the club out of the papers, but players generally don't have very much day-to-day contact with directors.

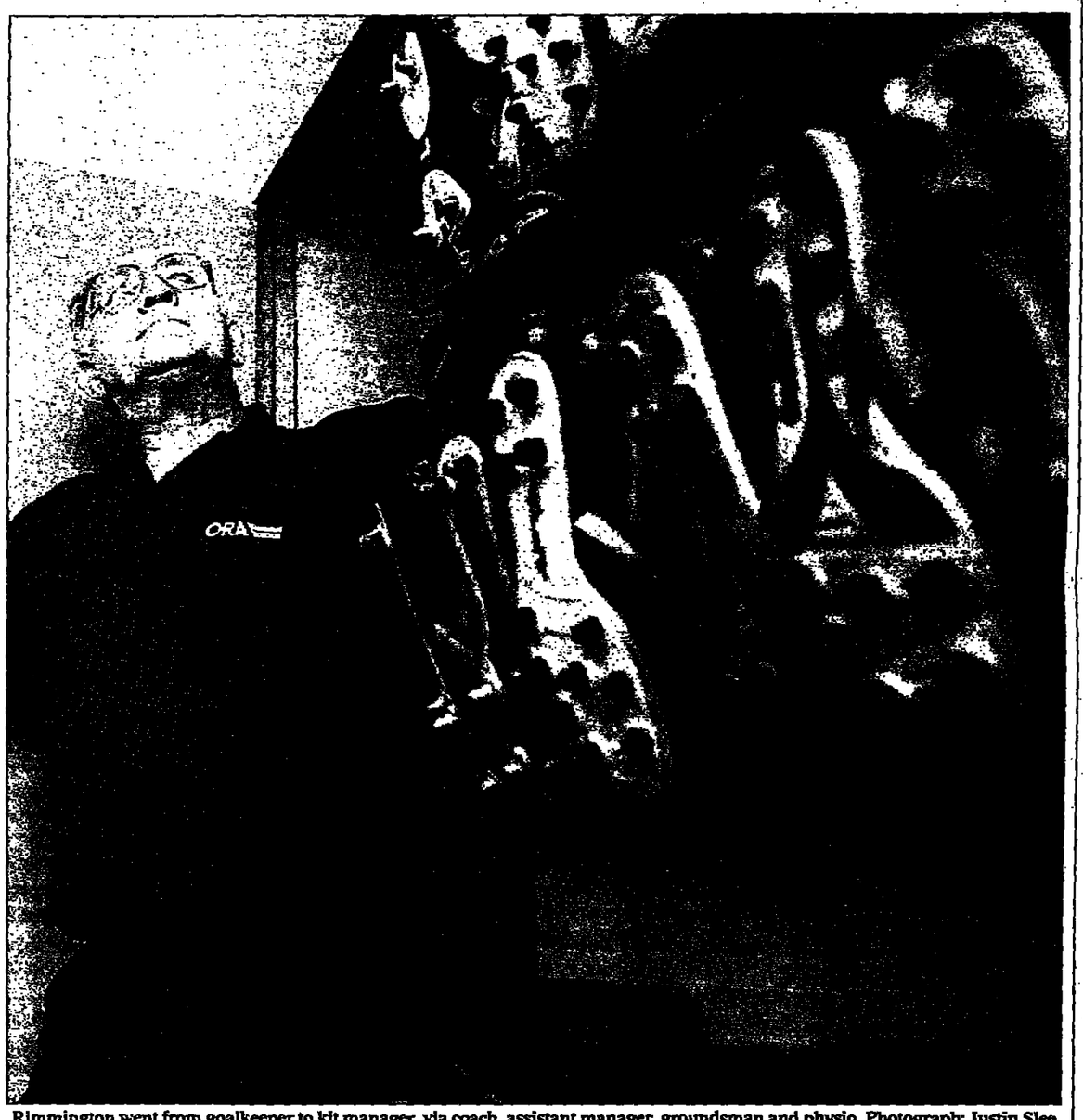
What is far more important to Newcastle is their league position. Kenny Dalglish has admitted his team is in a relegation scrap, but I'm certain they will get out of it. It was a very important win for Crystal Palace on Wednesday, but Newcastle have the quality and depth of squad to escape.

Most of the sides relegated in recent years haven't had the depth to cope when it gets serious towards the end of the season. Newcastle have, and I'm convinced they will survive. I hope so.

STEVE McMANAMAN

Mark Hodkinson continues his weekly series by meeting the man who became an Oakwell institution

Rim keeps his feet on Barnsley's ground



Rimmington went from goalkeeper to kit manager, via coach, assistant manager, groundsman and physio. Photograph: Justin Slee

The cleaner puts down the handle of a vacuum cleaner and kindly offers to help. She pops her head into a room beneath Barnsley's West Stand. "Is Norman in there?" "Yeah, he's under the table," is the response. Good humour and Barnsley are best pals again — three consecutive league wins and a four-month unbeaten home record have seen to that.

While the first team squad has spent this week relaxing in Spain, 74-year-old Norman Rimmington has chosen to remain at Oakwell. He has reserve matches away at Rotherham and Rochdale to occupy his thoughts.

An apprentice, skin shining and hair floppy, sees him on the corridor. "Rim, did those boots arrive, only I need them for tomorrow?"

Almost everyone calls him Rim; it's the kind of nickname that schoolboys give to one another, while Rimmington, a club stalwart for 55 years, is forever young.

During his time at the club he has been a goalkeeper, coach, assistant manager, groundsman, physiotherapist and, finally, kit manager.

He sits in the boardroom during the interview, uneasy among the plush seats and wood-panelled walls. His real domain is the factory floor of Barnsley FC, the storerooms and dressing-rooms, where the air is heavy with the smell of boot polish and disinfectant and where, at every turn, there is a young face bidding: "All right, Rim?"

By today's standards he does not seem tall enough for a goalkeeper, but he is thick set with large, gnarled hands.

"I would not choose to be a goalkeeper if I had my time again," he said. "When I played, you could get walloped and hammered. I've had my finger broken, my thumb, injured my leg, and I dislocated my shoulder in a game against West Brom."

He played 27 games for Barnsley before joining Hartlepool United for five seasons in 1946. He returned to his home town and returned to the pits from where he was summoned to coach Barnsley's A team and reserves. In the early 1970s the club took a downturn, spending four seasons in the bottom half of the old fourth division.

"It was a very bad period," Rimmington said. "We were desperate for cash, the gates were down and we were having to perform miracles with players we'd got on free transfers.

"It seemed to be a losing battle. I got offers from other clubs but somehow or other, when you are from Barnsley, you do not want to leave."

He settled on the perfect compromise when he left behind the despondency of the training ground to tend the Oakwell pitch. "I just thought I'd have a bash at being groundsman," he said. "I liked the fresh air and it took a lot of the pressure away. Looking after a pitch owes much to hard work and common sense."

In 1978, when the former Leeds United striker, Allan Clarke, joined as player-manager, Rimmington swapped jobs again. "He wanted me to be the physio," he said. "I was enjoying doing the pitch but Allan doubled my wages. I didn't hesitate for long. Clarke led Barnsley to promotion in his first season, averaging almost a goal every three matches, and Rimmington believes he galvanised the club's dramatic change of fortune.

"He got the place buzzing," Rimmington said. "Everything seemed to boom when he was here and we didn't look back. I think Ernest [Dennis, Barnsley's late chairman] really pushed the boat out when he got Clarke. He forfeited his testimonial at Leeds to come here, so he must have been paid good wages."

When Rimmington reached retirement, he told the club that he could no longer "belt onto the field" to treat injured players. He was asked to become kit manager and accepted on one condition: "I told them I didn't want to go to away matches. I'm pig sick of hotels. All you do is mooch around killing time. It's deadly."

Kit manager is actually a misnomer as he is more of a personal valet to the legion of players — from the first team to the juniors — who wear the red of Barnsley.

His inventory of responsibilities is long and meticulous. He must provide pre-match chocolate bars and chewing gum, cycle shorts of the optimum elasticity, tie-ups, football boots with various soles, training kit. He has a typed list of every player's idiosyncrasies.

After the interview he offers a quick tour of the various rooms beneath the stand. He opens the door to a tiny storeroom. "I came in here on my own after the Bradford match when we won promotion [to the FA Carling Premiership last season]," he said. "I just sat here for about half an hour and smoked a cigar." In another windowless room, apprentices are scrubbing polish into boots. They smile and nod to him.

There is life and vitality coursing through this football municipality and a perceptible respect for its elders. Danny Wilson and his young charges can enjoy their break in the sun. Barnsley FC is in safe hands: safe gnarled hands.

LIFE AT THE TOP

Fair weather for Vase clash leaves Quigley cold

PETER QUIGLEY is one man in the North East who has not been smiling at the perfect early spring weather this week. As manager of Tow Law Town, with a place in the FA Carlsberg Vase final up for grabs today after an astonishing 4-4 draw in the first leg of the semi-final away to Taunton Town last week, Quigley at least expected his club's Ironworks Road ground to live up to its reputation as one of the least welcoming in football.

"It's not exactly idyllic," Quigley said. "It's the highest ground in senior football for a start. When you consider it is generally colder in the North East than anywhere else, take another ten degrees off for Tow Law. It can be a brutal place for visiting teams. I used to hate it when I looked in the fixture list and saw I had to go there any time between December and March. Just when you want some traditional weather, a howling gale, driving rain and a nice, soft pitch — we have this."

The fabled piece of sloping Durham moorland is doing its best, then, to conspire in favour of an all-Screwfix Direct Western League final, with Tiverton Town taking a 2-0 lead to Kidsgrove Athletic in the other semi-final. Quigley's task, after a first leg littered with the kind of defensive mistakes that try managers' patience, is to tap his — Arnott Insurance Northern League side's talents.

"In some ways the away leg favours the away side," Quigley said. "They get together, stay overnight, get in a bit of male bonding and can prepare better than the home side. The pressure will be on us to perform, and it's not as if they'll be in front of a partisan crowd of 10,000 or anything. You really just hope the players don't freeze on the day but relax and play their normal game."

Ensuring that is Quigley's task. Northern League through and through, he was at the heart of Dunston Federation Brewery's rise from parks football to the Northern League during 13 years as manager. Results failed to match expectations last season and when he refused to accept the dismissal of Tony Heslop, his assistant, he, too, was shown the door.

At Heslop's insistence he applied for the job at Tow Law, whose manager of 15 years, Steve Leeming, stepped down last season. The pair are back in harness and enjoyed a Vase victory over Dunston in the third round. Now it is a matter of brewing up a storm for their visitors from Somerset.

WALTER GAMMIE

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Francis shedding his uncaring image

OLIVER HOLT





Francis, his resignation on a point of principle now withdrawn, can concentrate on trying to take Birmingham City into the first division play-offs. Photograph: Sean Paget

'He still has to fight against an undeserved reputation for being an aloof disciplinarian'

The resignation got the lion's share of the publicity. Resignations always do. Trevor Francis said his piece, Karren Brady said hers. In the pictures, Francis looked grim and determined. Brady looked sultry and mean. Soon, Francis was reinstated. There was joy and relief. It was such compelling stuff that nobody once mentioned the baby.

It had happened four days earlier, this incident that defines just how far Francis has travelled since he first entered management with Queens Park Rangers a decade ago, that says so much more about him and his intelligence and strength of character than any resignation, even if it was on a point of principle, ever could.

Accept, first, that in private he is as different from his cold, slightly distant public image as it is possible to be. His detractors mock him for his love of designer clothes and fine dining. They say he is a *bon viveur* but they do not mention that he spends his working days on a windswept training pitch on the southern outskirts of Birmingham, with a green prefabricated hut as his office and deep, clinging mud for a front lawn.

In company he knows or trusts, his guard comes down and his humour and candour come to the fore. But this man, who was one of the most gifted forwards this country has produced, who relaxes with Thursday trawls through the Cotswolds for fine restaurants with his wife, Helen, still has to fight against an undeserved reputation for being an aloof disciplinarian devoid of the human touch. Some of that reputation, at least, should have been dissolved by what happened in the days leading up to his resignation.

The previous Tuesday, the day before another important game away to Norwich City, another important step in Birmingham City's struggle to force their way into the play-offs at the top of the Nationwide League first division, one of his midfield players, Martyn O'Connor, came to Francis with a problem.

It was not just any problem. It was an issue that, unjustly given all he achieved in his four seasons in charge at Sheffield Wednesday, seems to have hovered over Francis like a black cloud since he first took his stance on it when he was manager at QPR. This time, though, despite the sense of déjà vu that must have washed over him, he changed tack.

Nine years ago, when he was in charge at Loftus Road, Francis had fined his volatile midfield player, Martin Allen, £1,500 for fleeing the team hotel to be present for the delivery of his son on the morning of a match with Newcastle United. The case had become a *cause célèbre*. Allen got the public sympathy vote. Francis was vilified.

Two weeks ago, O'Connor approached him. This time, Francis did not think twice. He told him to stay with his wife. He could join up with the team in East Anglia the next day. When O'Connor telephoned on Wednesday morning to say he had had a sleepless night and that there were some minor complications, Francis told him to forget about Norwich.

"I have been in football management for nine years now," Francis said. "I still had my L-plates on when I was down at QPR. The 11 months I had there was a difficult period. It was a learning process and I tried to implement a lot of the ideas I picked up from my time in Italy. I changed the training routines and some of the old habits like stopping for fish and chips on the way back from away trips.

"There were some good things that I did there that tended to be completely forgotten. I was remembered for that one incident with Martin Allen. I have been asked what I would do if the same happened again and now it has. You know that there is another side of Trevor Francis that doesn't come out in public. I know I'm seen as a little bit cold, not one for getting over-emotional. I don't allow people to get close to me. They see the professionalism in me but I'm human, too.

"I do enjoy quality of life. I like the nice things in life. Nothing wrong with that. There are a lot of people who go through life and do not learn anything. I learnt at a young age how to behave in restaurants and I enjoy my food, I like nice wines, like to dress smartly. There's nothing wrong with taking a little bit of care in your appearance."

To some, perhaps, the episode with O'Connor might seem insignificant, merely an indication that Francis had come to his senses and learnt a little humanity. To others it might even have appeared that Francis had remembered the public outcry, the questions in Parliament that had followed the incident with Allen and was loath to suffer the same again. But there is more to it than that.

This, after all, is a man who was proud to be present at the births of both of his sons but makes no attempt to conceal the fact that both arrivals were induced on Mondays so as to be certain that they would not impinge on his football career. That is how dedicated Francis has always been to his profession. He assumed others felt the same way.

The incident with Allen showed him that not everyone shared his level of absolute and utter commitment to his profession. His time playing under Ron Atkinson at Wednesday taught him even more about the art of man-management and the knack of creating a bond with his players, rather than staying aloof from them.

His handling of O'Connor, though, showed a willingness to change and adapt that few possess. It showed there was room for manoeuvre in what previously seemed to be a rigid frame, that his managerial education has moved on in leaps and bounds.

"The L-plates have gone now," he said. "I feel as though I have passed my test. When I played under Ron, it was a real education. I learnt a lot from him. I knew that the second time around I was going to have to change slightly how I was going to manage if I was to stay in a job, otherwise the same thing would happen as at QPR."

And so, when Atkinson left for Aston Villa in 1991 and Francis took over, he trod more carefully. He signed a handful of new players, confined himself to some judicious tinkering with the legacy he had been left and guided Wednesday to a period of great success. In 1993 alone, they reached the finals of both the Coca-Cola Cup and the FA Cup.

He was sacked by Wednesday in May 1995 and joined Birmingham City, the club for whom he had starred as a 16-year-old, a year later. Nearly two years on, he has pared down the chaos left him by his predecessor, Barry Fry, into a homogenous, hard-working group of 27 professionals and has guided the team to the very edge of the play-offs.

This afternoon at St Andrew's, they play Nottingham Forest, the team that has been setting the pace at the top of the table, the club that made Francis into a superstar when Brian Clough turned him into the first £1 million player in February 1979.

Three months later, Francis won the European Cup for his new club when he scored with that low diving header from John Robertson's cross to beat Malmö. The associations with Forest come thick and fast. He scored his last ever goal against them and it was a 7-1 drubbing by them that finally cost him his job at Wednesday.

Today, though, Francis goes into the game in a stronger position at Birmingham than he has been at any time since his appointment. His resignation and the scrambling the club was forced to do to persuade him to reconsider have established him as the champion of players' rights, another neat turnaround from those troubled times at QPR.

"My relationship with the chairman, David Gold, is as good as it can possibly be," Francis said. "It has got better in the past fortnight than at any time since I've been at the club. He has been very, very supportive of me. I have been overwhelmed by the reaction of the supporters, the chairman and the other owners. I had a number of players on the phone, too, pleading with me to stay because they feel all the hard work is coming together. I was battling for them and they were very pleased."

And Martyn O'Connor? Francis smiled. "Let's just say he was pleased he was selected that Saturday."

Chelsea's destination is home from home

BRIAN GLANVILLE



Goals to Newcastle. Or, if you prefer it, Anglo-Italians to Vicenza. Gianluca Vialli, Roberto Di Matteo and Gianfranco Zola will be treading familiar ground on April 2 when Chelsea play their Cup Winners' Cup semi-final, first leg in that beautiful Palladian city.

Vicenza are unlikely to give Chelsea as much trouble as Real Betis did. Vicenza steamrollered Roda JC, the modest Dutch cup-holders, in the return leg of their quarter-final on Thursday, scoring five times, but their form in Serie A has been mediocre. They lie eleventh in the table, 24 points behind Juventus, the leaders, and last Sunday lost 3-1 away to Bologna, who thus went one point above them.

They have a powerful, acrobatic striker in Pasquele Luiso, 28, and a strong, forceful midfield player in Lamberto Zauli, a 26-year-old Roman enjoying his first season in Serie A. The 34-year-old Domenco Di Carlo keeps the wheels turning in midfield, but the Uruguay striker, Marcelo Otero, has not maintained the form he showed on his arrival in 1995. The defence, despite the arrival of Francesco Coco, the young left back from AC Milan, is hardly impregnable.

This will be an opportunity for Gianfranco Zola to show his present, coruscating form on native soil to Cesare Maldini, the Italy coach, who will have received a tape from Chelsea of Zola's dazzling performance against Betis at Stamford Bridge. Zola was watched by Picchio de Sisti, once a famous inside forward, later a leading manager, now attached to the Italian Federation. After the game, De Sisti said: "I have never known a star retain his humility as has Zola."

Zola, with his usual dry good humour, said that he assumed Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, would continue to ring the changes in the line-up from week to week "but, to be honest, I'm talking for someone else".

Vialli wholly justified his decision to play. "I was up to it," he said, "I felt very good," and he looked it. He must be tempted to play in Vicenza, not least because he might still have a chance — despite the abundance of Italy strikers — of being called up for the World Cup after missing out in 1994.

Chelsea will hardly be worried by the possibility of Luis Aragones, the Betis manager, reporting them to Uefa for the way he was bundled from the touchline by stewards and police in the second half on Thursday.

Insisting that Chelsea had played too harshly in the first half, he claimed that Betis should have had "a very clear penalty" and added, somewhat sanctimoniously, that "a team which plays as well as Betis doesn't need to play rough".

The Chelsea defence, though, is still far from watertight. They might have conceded a goal in the first minute, when Duberry sliced a clearance, forcing Leboeuf to a desperate, foot-up interception, which incurred a free kick.

Dangerous, indeed, if you have an opponent with a mighty left foot. Alexis tapped the ball to Jarni and it took a gallant tip over the top by Ed de Goey to keep the ball out.

As for those half-time scuffles in the tunnel, Vialli casually dismissed them. "Just a few words," he said. "You push me, I push you, and sometimes someone goes in the middle and makes the problem even bigger."

His next problem is the Coca-Cola Cup final at Wembley on Sunday week, when history repeats itself. Middlesbrough, Chelsea's victims in the FA Cup Final last year, are again the opposition.

Vialli is the last person who would underestimate that prolific, 33-year-old goal-snatcher, Marco Branca.

Vialli delighted to be going back

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

CHELSEA. Britain's surviving representative in Europe this season, are delighted with their draw against Vicenza in the semi-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup. Vicenza, the struggling Serie A side, have taken a rather dimmer view of the two-legged tie.

Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, was particularly pleased to be returning to his native Italy. "I've played against Vicenza many times over many years, first of all in the lower division when I was with Cremonese," he said. "They have no superstars, nobody in the Italian national team, but they're a team who play for each other.

"With three Italians in our side, it's going to be very interesting going there. I know their manager quite well and he's an excellent organiser. Their ground is quite tight and the crowd are close to the pitch, a bit like an English stadium."

Francesco Guidolin, the Vicenza manager, was not so upbeat. "I know who I didn't want to meet and that was Chelsea," he said. "I'd much rather have met Vialli in the final rather than over two legs in the semi."

Vicenza is the only Italian club part-owned by an English company. In July 1997, the England National Investment Company, a trust run by Joe Lewis, the billionaire businessman who is based in the Bahamas, paid £2.4 million in cash for a 29.9 per cent stake in the club.

VfB Stuttgart, the 15-8 second-favourites for the cup behind Chelsea, who are 13-8, received the least inviting draw. They have been paired with Lokomotiv Moscow, the first leg to be played in Germany.

In the semi-finals of the Champions' League, AS Monaco, who beat Manchester United on the away-goals rule in the quarter-finals, have drawn Juventus, the holders. It raises the possibility of a repeat of the final last year, when Juventus lost 3-1 to Borussia Dortmund.

Dortmund, having disposed of Bayern Munich, their compatriots, have been drawn to play Real Madrid, six times winners of the competition. "Real are one of the greatest clubs in Europe," Christian Hockenjos, Dortmund's chief administrator, said. "We know them well, we have seen them play and we will be well prepared."

In the semi-finals of the Uefa Cup, Atlético Madrid, conquerors of Leicester City in the first round and Aston Villa in the quarter-finals, will play Lazio, of Italy. Internazionale, the other Italian club left in the competition, have been drawn against Spartak Moscow. "They beat Ajax 4-1 on aggregate and are very strong," Giacinto Facchetti, the Inter director, said.

SEMI-FINALS

CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Juventus v AS Monaco; Real Madrid v Borussia Dortmund *(April 1 and 15)*.

CUP WINNERS' CUP: Vicenza v Chelsea; VfB Stuttgart v Lokomotiv Moscow. *(April 2 and 16)*.

UEFA CUP: Atlético Madrid v Lazio; Internazionale v Spartak Moscow *(March 31 and April 14)*.

PRODUCT RECALL

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Codes can be found on the opening end flap.

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GOLF

Davies on course for final assault

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

LAURA DAVIES did not expect to be nervous before the first round of the Standard Register Ping tournament here at Moon Valley on Thursday, but she was. "The last minute seemed like hours," the usually laid-back Englishwoman said. "It was almost torture."

There were more people around than was usual on an opening day because this is a historic week. Davies has the chance to become the only golfer to win a title five years in succession, to move out on her own, ahead of Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen, who are the only other players to win the same event four consecutive times.

In the event, she was delighted to start with a round of 70, three under par, just three shots behind the leader, Cindy Figg-Currier. She admitted that her only worry was not being in contention on Sunday. "It would be so much fun to have a chance," she said.

More unexpectedly, Diane Barnard, of Lancashire, who is in her first year on the US Tour, also returned a solid 70, dropping only one shot, at the 15th, where she three-putted from 12 feet. She went out in 33 after a glorious six-iron to six feet at the 9th and moved to four under with a birdie two at the 11th. Neil Carter, her new caddie, who used to work for Alison Nicholas, was mightily impressed. "This girl can play," he said.

Out early yesterday, Davies continued her satisfactory progress with a birdie four at the 10th, her first hole. She hit a great drive, put her second in a greenside bunker but exploded out to two feet. She was less lucky with the sand at the short 11th, where her tee shot was plugged in a bunker and she failed to save her par from 20 feet.

On Thursday, Davies made her score at the par fives — she had birdies at all four — but that sequence came to an end at the 13th yesterday, where she hooked her drive. However, she made up for it by holing a putt of 20-odd feet for a birdie three at the 14th, to move to four under par, four shots behind Liselotte Neumann, who had charged out in 32 to take the lead. Michelle McGann, she of the spectacular straw hats, was at six under, alongside Alicia Dibos, of Peru.

Before the tournament started, Davies, who used in the region of 50 putters last year, said she would be sticking to an Odyssey that she had plucked from her collection, but before her opening round she spotted something she fancied more and has been using it — so far. "It's a Bobby Jones," she said, "and when I noticed it, I thought 'God, that looks nice,' and I used it. It's nice for pace putting and the Odyssey hadn't really holed anything."

The former world No 1 admitted that she talked to her putters but would not reveal what she said to them. "Nothing you could print," she said. "Putters are weird," she added, "but I'm a good putter."

Patty Sheehan, the 41-year old Hall of Famer, was another who putted well in the first round, to finish with a 69, alongside Helen Alfredsson, the revitalised Swede, who has already won twice this season and is top of the money-list but reluctant to accept that she was her country's leading player.

"I've got a lot of catching up to do, to match Lotta [Neumann] and Annika [Sorenstam]," she said, "but it's nice to be enjoying the game again. I look forward to it and I'm told I'm much easier to live with."

Sheehan is enjoying her golf again, too, and her life has a new focus since she adopted a baby daughter eight months ago. "She takes up a lot of my time," Sheehan said, "but she's brought such joy to my life. She puts everything into perspective — what's important and what's not. I'm a lot calmer, a lot more at ease and a lot more confident."

FIRST ROUND

SCORES (US unless stated): 67: C Figg-Currier. 69: P Sheehan, L Neumann (Swe), J Geddes, T Barrett, K Weiss, J Gallagher-Smith, H Alfredsson (Swe). 70: M Mallon, R Jones, P Hammel, L Davies (GB), K Saiki, E Klein, D Barnard (SA). 71: M Hjorth (Swe), L Hackney (GB), A Dibos (Peru). 72: J Crafter (Aus), A Sorenstam (Swe). 73: J Stephenson (Aus), H Kobayashi (Japan), C Koch (Swe), R Hetherington (Aus), G Park (S Kor). 74: J Lidback (Peru), S R Park (S Kor), C Nilsmark (Swe), J Morley (GB), M Hirase (Japan), H Dobson (GB), C Dibnah (Aus), E Dahllof (Swe), L Bemvenuti (Br), S Strudwick (GB). 75: L Walters (Can), G Graham (Can), K Webb (Aus), S Waugh (Aus), C Sorenstam (Swe), S Croce (It). 76: M Figueras-Dotti (Sp), D Coe-Jones (Can), A Nicholas (GB), K Marshall (GB). 77: S Little (SA), T Johnson (GB), C Matthew (GB), W Doolan (Aus)



ANDRÉ CAMARA

Hawkes, the Oxford captain, and Saunders demonstrate the value of good teamwork as they line up a putt

Cambridge in first-day honours

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IN THE book *Green Memories*, Bernard Darwin concludes an essay about the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society with the words: "It is enough to say that the Society has warmed both hands before the fire at Rye."

There was no talk of a fire, nor of the need to warm hands when the first day of the 109th match between Oxford and Cambridge ended at Rye yesterday with Cambridge holding a one-point lead. Rye's magical links were bathed in a wintry sun: that the sky was blue was undoubted, but was it an Oxford or a Cambridge blue?

"It must be Cambridge blue, mustn't it?" Peter Cooper, who is a former Cambridge Blue himself, said by the 18th green, *an appropriately-coloured scarf around his neck. "We've got to give Cambridge something. We're desperate to win. We haven't done so since* 1991." Even a narrow lead is not going to calm Cambridge's nerves. Two years ago they were ahead after the first day, only to collapse in the singles and lose by two points.

Though three of yesterday's matches, in the end, were comfortable, the other two were close. In the first of these, Tristan Clarke and Jeremy Burdek, both 19, were making their debuts for Oxford.

Whether Clarke was as nervous as his parents, who had flown over from Royal Portrush and followed him every step of the way is a moot point.

What is not in doubt is that the two tall Oxford undergraduates lost three of the last four holes in the morning so that they lunched all square, having been three up, only to play like the veterans they are not in the afternoon. They were one up after 27 holes and enjoyed their victory; which came on the 16th green, over James Fletcher, said to be the best Cambridge player, and Bill Rusted.

Behind them, John Firth and Rob Sherwin, a past captain of Cambridge, must have though they were home and dry when they went dormie five up on James Hardy and Dominic Pardey.

Magical short-game play by Hardy helped things to change dramatically over the next few holes and Cambridge's lead had shrunk to one up on the 18th tee. Though Sherwin's nerves may have been jangling, he demonstrated his maturity with a fine drive. When Firth hit a good second shot, it just about made sure that they could not lose because Hardy's drive had disappeared into the pit on the right of the 18th fairway.

On a day that was otherwise a happy one for those of light blue persuasion, there was one sad footnote when word reached Rye that Laddie Lucas had died of cancer early in the morning.

Lucas, who as P. B. Lucas (Pembroke) lost his foursomes but beat Frank Penning in the singles by nine and seven in 1935 and then remained undefeated in the matches of 1936 and 1937. He was selected for the 1939 Walker Cup match, but did not play, and the 1947 match, as well as representing England on numerous other occasions.

For one who made such a contribution to univeristy golf, it was appropriate that he should die on this day and in the year of the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society's centenary.

Life of Riley takes turn for the better

FROM MEL WEBB
IN PENINA, PORTUGAL

WAYNE RILEY, the wild man turned mild man, has a taste for all things Portuguese and that includes its golf courses. Riley won the Portuguese Open two years ago and yesterday on the Algarve he took a huge step towards a repeat performance.

Riley had a 66 that reduced even the closest of his rivals to gallant but forlorn pursuit. His 134, 12 under par, left him two strokes clear of the field. He may be caught this weekend, but if he maintains anything like the form he has shown in the past two days he will take some catching.

Time was when the stubby little Australian, like so many of his compatriots, used to be a fervent and relentless adherent to the principle of keeping the cup of life full to the point of overflow. He is still not the type to take an early night in the company of a cup of cocoa and a good book, but is undoubtedly a quieter, more reflective individual than in the days of yore.

His preparations for this season were seriously hampered when he took a tumble at a party being thrown by Sam Torrance, the Europe Ryder Cup campigner who is a friend and neighbour, a week before Christmas. The result, a broken rib, held him back for weeks.

After his performance in the past two days, it is fair to assume that he is better. He had a round of 68 on Thursday and was in prime form again yesterday, hitting fairways with monotonous regularity and making a fistful of putts for birdies.

He had only one blemish, an ugly three-iron at the par-three 13th going right followed by a failure to hole the putt for par after chipping onto the green. That apart, he was consistency itself. Two birdies preceded the bogey and five followed it to leave him two strokes ahead of Paul Lawrie, three in front of David Gilford and Peter Mitchell and four to the good over Santiago Luna and Jeff Remesy.

No such celebrations attended Darren Clarke. The Ulsterman, who had played such good golf in his first-round 66, dined on crab the night before and at one time looked to be heading out of the tournament before he hit a shot in the second round, such was his reaction to his choice of dish.

In the end he did stagger onto the course, played like the sick man he was for 15 holes, then birdied the last three holes to finish on six under par. What a trooper he is.

Leading scores, page 36

TENNIS

Capriati hits obstacle on revival trail

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

ONE woman's comeback has been put on ice, another's commences in earnest this weekend and a third ended in defeat yesterday when Jennifer Capriati, the golden girl turned *enfant terrible*, was roundly dismissed here in her first competitive match of 1998.

Capriati's defeat followed the late withdrawal on Thursday of Steffi Graf, who failed to recover from the strained hamstring that prompted her semi-final exit in California last week. As for Monica Seles, she is scheduled to make her first appearance of the year in these £3 million Lipton Championships, the most significant gathering of men and women outside the grand-slam tournaments.

At least Capriati finished her match with Magdalena Grzybowska with something of a flourish. After Grzybowska captured the opening set without losing a game, Capriati responded by pushing her opponent close before the Polish girl went through 6-0, 7-5.

Now ranked No 147, Capriati has been compromised by injury since she completed her drugs-related rehabilitation more than two years ago. How much of her problems remain in the mind is hard to fathom, although she spoke enthusiastically about a sustained stint on the circuit in the months ahead.

That would be an achievement in itself. Capriati, 21, has hardly played since her early exit from the Australian Open 14 months ago. In that time she has suffered injuries to her ankle and arm — not to mention severe damage to her confidence.

"I feel I have been in a constant fight," she said after her defeat. "It seems like I am always trying to come back, but it is getting easier now."

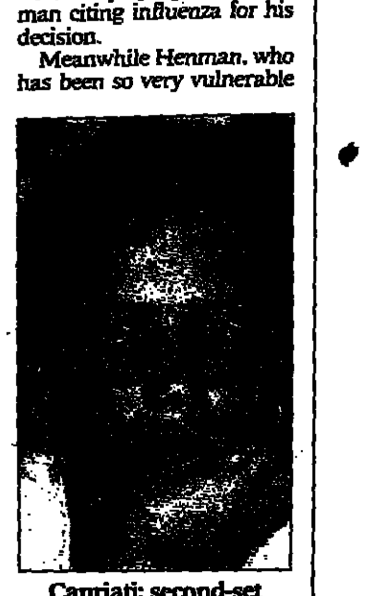
There remains some way to go if Capriati is to regain her former place in the world's top ten. The 1992 Olympic champion's personal strife has been a source of ghoulish fascination for too long. Graf, by contrast, looked close to her best in California: her defection from this event is all the more disappointing.

"It was obvious after hitting a few balls in practice that there had not been enough time for the injury to heal," Graf, who is not expected to play in advance of a clay-court event in Florida on April 6, said.

Rain delays have stalled the progress of an event whose unusual format ascribes seeded berths to 36 men and women, who are all given byes into the second round. Consequently, Greg Rusedski, seeded No 5, and Tim Henman, seeded No 18, will not play before the weekend.

Rusedski yesterday learnt the identity of his second-round opponent: Dominik Hrbaty, a Slovakian ranked No 52 in the world who beat Daniel Vacek, 6-3, 6-2. Rusedski, ranked fifth in the world, has an outside chance of usurping the world No 1, Pete Sampras, if the latter, a semi-finalist 12 months ago, makes an early exit. Boris Becker withdrew yesterday without playing, the German citing influenza for his decision.

Meanwhile Henman, who has been so very vulnerable against lower-ranked opponents of late, plays Grant Stafford, the South African ranked No 74, who mastered Emilio Alvarez, of Spain, 7-5, 6-4.



Capriati: second-set rally was to no avail

Henman has lost his opening match at five of his last six tournaments and this event represents one of his last realistic opportunities before Wimbledon to improve his world standing. He is defending no ranking points, having been inactive through injury 12 months ago.

Andrew Richardson, Danny Sapsford, Chris Wilkinson and Mark Petchey, who were among a large British contingent to attend a Lawn Tennis Association-funded training camp in Florida last week, all lost in the first qualifying round to emphasise just how lacking in depth is the men's game in Britain.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket

FA Carling Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	31	18	6	7	58	23	60
Arsenal	28	15	9	4	47	26	54
Liverpool	30	14	9	7	51	32	51
Chelsea	30	15	3	12	59	35	48
Leeds	30	14	6	10	45	30	48
Blackburn	29	13	9	7	43	38	48
Derby	29	13	6	10	44	33	45
West Ham	29	13	5	11	41	38	44
Leicester	29	10	10	9	35	30	40
Coventry	29	10	10	9	35	35	40
Southampton	30	12	4	14	33	42	40
A Villa	31	11	6	14	34	41	39
Sheff Wed	30	10	7	13	45	57	37
Wimbledon	28	9	8	11	30	32	35
Newcastle	29	9	8	12	27	33	35
Everton	30	8	9	13	34	42	33
Tottenham	30	8	7	15	29	47	31
Barnsley	29	9	4	16	29	66	31
Bolton	29	5	12	12	27	47	27
C Palace	30	6	8	16	26	51	26

Nationwide League

First division

(1) Birmingham v Nottingham Forest
(2) Bury v Oxford Utd
(3) * Crewe v Charlton
(4) Ipswich v Wolverhampton
(5) Manchester City v Sheffield Utd
(6) Reading v Huddersfield
(7) Stoke v Queens Park Rangers
(8) Sunderland v Portsmouth
(9) Swindon v Stockport
(10) Tranmere v Bradford
(11) West Bromwich v Port Vale

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottm F	37	22	8	7	63	33	74
Middlesbro	37	21	9	7	61	36	72
Sunderland	37	20	10	7	68	39	70
Charlton	37	18	9	10	64	47	63
Ipswich	37	16	13	8	60	38	61
Sheff Utd	35	16	13	6	54	37	61
Birmingham	38	15	14	9	50	31	59
Wolvrhmptn	36	16	8	12	45	36	56
Stockport	38	16	6	16	60	54	54
West Brom	38	14	10	14	37	43	52
Oxford Utd	38	14	8	16	53	51	50
Bradford	38	12	14	12	38	39	50
Swindon	39	14	8	17	38	58	50
Crewe	38	14	5	19	45	54	47
Norwich	38	11	12	15	37	57	45
QPR	38	10	13	15	43	53	43
Huddersfld	38	11	9	18	42	57	42
Bury	38	8	18	12	35	46	42
Port Vale	38	11	8	19	44	54	41
Portsmth	37	11	8	18	40	51	41
Tranmere	36	10	10	16	37	45	40
Man City	38	10	9	19	42	46	39
Reading	38	10	9	19	36	66	39
Stoke	38	8	13	17	36	57	37

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v Connah's Quay (2.0). Caersws v Aberystwyth (2.30). Cwmbran v Carmarthen Town (2.0): Ebbw Vale v Porthmadog (2.30): Flint Town v Cemaes Bay (2.30). Haverfordwest v Barry (2.30). Inter Cable-Tel v Caernarfon (2.0): Rhayader Town v Newtown (2.30). Welshpool v TNS (2.30)

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Crusaders, Ballymena v Glenavon; Cliftonville v Coleraine. Glentoran v Omagh; Portadown v Linfield. First division: Bangor v Larne, Carrick v Newry; Distillery v Dungannon Swifts. Limavady Utd v Ballyclare.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: *Premier division:* Finn Harps v Shelbourne (7.30). Sligo v Derry (7.30).

Second division

(12) Blackpool v Gillingham
(13) Brentford v Northampton
(14) Bristol Rovers v Preston
(15) Chesterfield v Carlisle
(16) Luton v Grimsby
(17) Millwall v Burnley
(18) Oldham v Watford
(19) Plymouth v Bristol City
(20) Southend v Bournemouth
(21) Walsall v Wigan
(22) Wrexham v Wycombe
(23) York v Fulham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	38	21	12	5	56	32	75
Bristol City	37	21	9	7	60	29	72
Grimsby	35	17	10	8	48	27	61
Northmptn	38	16	13	9	44	30	61
Wrexham	37	16	12	9	46	42	60
Fulham	37	16	9	12	47	34	57
Gillingham	37	16	9	12	45	42	57
Bristol R	38	15	8	15	54	57	53
Bournemth	37	13	11	13	46	42	50
Wycombe	38	12	14	12	48	47	50
York	38	12	14	12	46	49	50
Oldham	36	12	13	11	48	41	49
Millwall	37	13	9	15	38	44	48
Chestrfld	38	11	15	12	34	36	48
Blackpool	37	13	8	16	46	55	47
Preston	37	12	9	16	43	45	45
Wigan	36	12	8	16	50	56	44
Walsall	35	11	10	14	35	41	43
Carlisle	38	11	8	19	50	57	41
Brentford	38	9	14	15	41	59	41
Luton	37	9	13	15	41	52	40
Plymouth	37	9	12	16	45	59	39
Southend	38	10	8	20	40	65	38
Burnley	36	8	12	16	41	49	36

Third division

(24) Brighton v Cambridge Utd
(25) Doncaster v Lincoln
(26) Hull v Cardiff
(27) Leyton Orient v Darlington
(28) Macclesfield v Shrewsbury
(29) Mansfield v Exeter
(30) Notts County v Colchester
(31) Peterborough v Chester
(32) Rochdale v Hartlepool
(33) Scunthorpe v Rotherham
(34) Swansea v Scarborough
(35) Torquay v Barnet

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts Co	38	25	9	4	67	35	84
Torquay	38	20	8	10	61	47	68
Barnet	38	18	10	10	54	40	64
Scarboro	38	18	9	11	62	51	63
Macclsfld	38	17	12	9	50	38	63
Lincoln	37	15	13	9	44	42	58
Colchester	38	16	9	13	60	52	57
Peterboro	38	15	12	11	57	41	57
Rotherham	38	14	15	9	55	43	57
L Orient	37	15	10	12	48	35	55
Chester	38	15	9	14	51	45	54
Exeter	38	13	14	11	56	49	53
Scunthrpe	37	14	10	13	46	47	52
Hartlpool	38	11	18	9	50	42	51
Mansfield	38	12	13	13	50	46	49
Shrwsbury	36	12	11	13	49	49	47
Cambs Utd	38	10	16	12	50	49	46
Darlington	37	12	10	15	48	59	46
Cardiff	38	8	21	9	45	41	45
Swansea	38	11	8	19	42	55	41
Rochdale	38	12	5	21	39	47	41
Hull	38	8	6	24	45	72	30
Brighton	38	5	13	20	29	54	28
Doncaster	38	3	7	28	24	97	16

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Semi-finals, second leg: Kidsgrove Athletic v Tiverton Town (2). Tow Law Town (4) v Taunton Town (4).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Portsmouth v Arsenal (2.0).

THE PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Manchester Utd v Derby (2.0).

Vauxhall Conference

(-) Dover v Gateshead
(-) Farnborough v Stevenage
(-) * Halifax v Rushden and Diamonds
(-) Hayes v Southport
(-) Hereford v Slough
(-) Kettering v Leek
(-) Morecambe v Cheltenham
(-) Northwich v Yeovil
(-) Stalybridge v Welling
(-) Telford v Hednesford
(-) Woking v Kidderminster

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Halifax	33	21	9	3	61	30	72
Rushden & D	32	20	2	10	63	39	62
Woking	32	17	8	7	55	31	59
Cheltenham	28	16	7	5	44	30	55
Morecambe	32	16	6	10	59	51	54
Hereford	32	15	8	9	44	36	53
Hednesford	33	14	11	8	47	41	53
Slough	32	14	6	12	43	37	48
Yeovil	32	13	5	14	55	50	44
Southport	30	11	10	9	45	36	43
Northwich	32	10	13	9	48	47	43
Hayes	32	12	6	14	48	44	42
Welling	32	11	8	13	45	50	41
Stevenage	32	10	10	12	44	43	40
Dover	29	11	6	12	46	52	39
Farnborough	32	10	6	16	42	52	36
Kidderminstr	33	8	11	14	47	52	35
Kettering	31	8	9	14	35	47	33
Leek	31	6	11	14	39	52	29
Telford	32	7	8	17	32	64	29
Stalybridge	32	6	6	20	33	65	24
Gateshead	31	5	8	18	34	64	23

Bell's Scottish League

Premier division

(36) Aberdeen v Celtic
(37) Dundee Utd v Hearts
(38) Hibernian v Motherwell
(39) Kilmarnock v Dunfermline
(40) Rangers v St Johnstone

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	28	18	5	5	54	13	59
Hearts	28	17	6	5	62	37	57
Rangers	28	15	9	4	61	32	54
Kilmarnck	28	9	9	10	30	38	36
St Johnstn	28	9	7	12	29	35	34
Dundee Utd	28	7	11	10	38	41	32
Aberdeen	28	7	9	12	32	45	30
Dunfmline	28	7	9	12	34	55	30
Motherwell	28	8	5	15	38	49	29
Hibernian	28	4	8	16	31	50	20

First division

(41) Airdrie v Stirling
(42) Greenock Morton v Partick
(-) Hamilton v Dundee (2.0)
(43) Raith v Ayr
(44) St Mirren v Falkirk

Second division

(45) Brechin v Clyde
(46) Inverness CT v Queen Of South
(47) Livingston v East Fife
(48) Stenhousemuir v Clydebank
(49) Stranraer v Forfar

Third division

(-) Alloa v Albion
(-) Berwick v Ross County
(-) Cowdenbeath v Queen's Park
(-) Dumbarton v Arbroath
(-) Montrose v East Stirling

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Gloucester; Bath v Tamworth; Cambridge City v St. Leonards Stamcroft; Crawley v Gresley Rovers, Halesowen Town v Bromsgrove; Hastings v Forest Green; Nuneaton v Burton Albion; Rothwell v Merthyr, Salisbury v Atherstone; Worcester City v King's Lynn. Southern division: Bashley v Clevedon; Erith and Belvedere v Witney; Fleet v Newport AFC; Havant v Fisher London; Margate v Cirencester Town; Newport IoW v Baldock; Tonbridge Angels v Cinderford; Waterlooville v Fareham; Weston-super-Mare v Chelmsford; Yate v Weymouth. Midland division: Blakenall v Solihull Borough, Brackley Town v Bedworth, Evesham v Grantham, Moor Green v VS Rugby; Raunds Town v Ilkeston; Shepshed Dynamo v Redditch, Stafford v RC Warwick, Stourbridge v Wisbech Town; Sutton Coldfield Town v Bilston

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bamber Bridge v Boston United, Blyth Spartans v Radcliffe; Colwyn Bay v Altrincham; Emley v Barrow, Gainsborough v Lancaster. Hyde v Frickley; Leigh RMI v Accrington; Marine v Guiseley; Runcorn v Spennymoor; Winsford v Chorley. First division: Ashton United v Burton Bradford Park Avenue v Gretna, Eastwood Town v Whitby; Flixton v Worksop, Great Harwood v Belper Town; Harrogate Town v Droylsden, Lincoln United v Congleton, Matlock Town v Trafford, Netherfield v Farsley Celtic Witton Albion v Whitley Bay; Workington v Stocksbridge PS

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Walton and Hersham; Bishop's Stortford v Basingstoke (at St Albans City), Boreham Wood v Kingstonian; Bromley v Carshalton; Dagenham and Redbridge v St Albans; Dulwich v Oxford City; Enfield v Purfleet; Gravesend and Northfleet v Heybridge; Harrow v Hitchin, Hendon v Yeading, Sutton United v Chesham. First division: Abingdon Town v Leyton Pennant; Barton Rovers v Aldershot Town, Sandhurst v Worthing; Billericay v Whyteleafe, Croydon v Uxbridge, Hampton v Chertsey; Leatherhead v Wokingham; Maidenhead v Molesey; Romford v Wembley; Staines v Bognor Regis; Thame Utd v Grays. Second division: Banstead v Egham, Bracknell v Wivenhoe, Braintree v Leighton Town; Canvey Island v Barking; Chalfont St Peter v Chesham, Hungerford v Horsham, Met Police v Windsor and Eton. Tilbury v Marlow; Tooting and Mitcham v Edgware; Wealdstone v Bedford Town; Witham v Northwood. Third division: Clapton v Ware, Corinthian-Casuals v Lewes; Dorking v Tring, East Thurrock v Harlow, Flackwell Heath v Aveley; Ford United v Camberley Town, Hemel Hempstead v Wingate and Finchley, Kingsbury v Croydon Athletic; Southall v Epsom

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier Division: Almondsbury v Burnham; Banbury v Wantage; Didcot v Harrow Hill; Hallen v Bicester; Kintbury v Shortwood.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Hythe; Canterbury v Slade Green; Chatham v Crockenhill; Erith v Folkestone Invicta; Lordswood v Faversham; Thamesmead v Deal; Tunbridge Wells v Ramsgate; V C D v Corinthian; Whitstable Town v Swanley Furness. Cup: Semi-final, first Leg: Greenwich v Cray; Herne Bay v Sheppey.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Melksham; Bristol Manor Farm v Backwell; Chippenham v Barnstaple; Keynsham v Westbury; Mangotsfield Utd v Calne; Odd Down v Bridgwater Paulton v Bridport; Torrington v Chard

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town v Diss, Fakenham v Ely; Great Yarmouth v Felixstowe Port and; Halstead v Watton; Histon v Harwich and Parkeston; Newmarket v Woodbridge Town; Soham v Lowestoft, Stowmarket v Sudbury; Sudbury v Gorleston; Wroxham v Warboys.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v Andover: Aerostructures v Totton; BAT v Thatcham Town; Cowes Sports v Romsey; East Cowes v Bournemouth; Eastleigh v Alc Newbury, Gosport v Brockenhurst; Portsmouth v Whitchurch, Wimborne v Christchurch.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne v Yaxley; Buckingham v Ford Sports; Desborough v St Neots, Eynesbury v Wellingborough. Holbeach v Wootton; Kempston v N Spencer; Long Buckby v Stamford; M Blackstone v Cogenhoe; Potton v Boston, S and L Corby v Spalding

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill v Arundel; Eastbourne Town v Hassocks; Hailsham v Littlehampton; Horsham YMCA v Saltdean. Mile Oak v Chichester; Pagham v Langney Sports, Peacehaven and Telscombe v Redhill Portfield v Shoreham; Whitehawk v Selsey, Wick v Ringmer

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Chasetown v Pershore Town, Halesowen Harriers v West Midlands Police, Oldbury v Boldmere; Pelsall Villa v Wednesfield, Rushall Olympic v Bridgnorth; Shifnal Town v Sandwell; Stapenhill v Rocester; Stratford Town v Bloxwich Town.

HIGHLAND FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Deveronvale v Peterhead; Fraserburgh v Huntly.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries v Clitheroe; Burscough v Holker Old Boys; Cheadle Town v Atherton LR; Darwen v Nantwich Town; Newcastle Town v Maine Road; Prescot Cables v Rossendale, Ramsbottom v Blackpool Rovers; Salford v Glossop North End; St Helens v Vauxhall GM; Warrington v Hasingden.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold v Sheffield; Brigg Town v Denaby; Curzon Ashton v Armthorpe Welfare; Eccleshill v Ossett Albion; Glasshoughton Welfare v Thackley; Hallam v Liversedge; Hatfield Main v Selby; Maltby M W. v Pickering; North Ferriby v Pontefract Cols; Ossett Town v Hucknall Town.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier Division: South: Amersham v Barkingside; Brimsdown v Brook House; Hanwell v Waltham Abbey; Harefield v St Margaretsbury; Haringey Borough v Ruislip Manor; Hillingdon Borough v Islington; Woodford v Beaconsfield. North: Bedford v Arlesey Town; Brache Sparta v Welwyn Garden; Buckingham Athletic v Toddington; Harpenden v Hoddesdon; Letchworth v Royston; London Colney v Biggleswade; Milton Keynes v Potters Bar Town.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon U v Saffron Walden, Brentwood v Concord Rangers; Great Wakering v Stansted, Sawbridgeworth v Ilford.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedfont v Ashford; Chipstead v Ash; Cobham v Hartley Wintney, Cranleigh v Viking Sports; Farnham v Cove, Godalming and Guildford v Reading Town, Merstham v Feltham; Raynes Park Vale v Walton Casuals; Sandhurst v Chessington and Hook; Westfield v Netherne.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES: First division: Arsenal v Leyton Orient (10.45), Fulham v Ipswich (11.00); Norwich City v QPR (11.00); Portsmouth v Gillingham (11.00); Southend Utd v Charlton Ath (11.00); Tottenham v Cambridge United (11.00); Watford v Crystal Palace (11.00); West Ham v Millwall (11.00). Second division: Bristol Rovers v Brentford (11.00); Colchester United v Luton Town (11.00); Oxford United v Tottenham (11.00); Swindon v Barnet (11.00); Wimbledon v Brighton Yth; Wycombe v Bristol City (11.00).

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Polytechnic v Civil Service; Carshalton v Old Actonians; South Bank v Lloyds Bank; Old Parmiterians v Crouch End Vampires; West Wickham v Norsemen; Lensbury v East Barnet OG; Alexandra Park v Old Parkonians; Winchmore Hill v Old Latymerians; Midland Bank v Old Lyonians; Old Esthameians v Old Owens; Alleyn OB v Old Bromleians; Kew Association v Old Stationers, Broomfield v Bank of England.

FA PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE (11.00): Coventry v West Ham; Derby v Crystal Palace; Leeds v QPR; Middlesbrough v Tottenham; Nottingham Forest v Southampton; Sheffield Wednesday v Wimbledon.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier Askam v Oldham St Annes; Heworth v West Hull, Walney Central v Egremont. First division: Blackbrook v Eastmoor; East Leeds v Barrow Island; Moldgreen v Leigh East; Skirlaugh v Wigan St Judes. Second division: Crosfields v New Earswick; Hull Dockers v Featherstone Amateur; Ovenden v Eccles; York Acorn v Siddal.

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Fifth round: Ellenborough v Woolston; Hensingham v Embassy; Ideal ABI v Beverley; Leigh Miners v West Bowling; Millom v Oulton; Redhill v Lock Lane; Thatto Heath v Wigan St Pats; Thornhill v Orrell St James

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Canterbury v Beeston (at Polo Farm, 1.0); Guildford v Barford Tigers (at Broadwater School, Godalming, 12.30); Old Loughtonians v Hounslow (at Chigwell, 2.0); Reading v East Grinstead (at Sonning Lane, 2.0); Southgate v Doncaster (at Trent Park, 2.0); Teddington v Cannock (at Dukes Meadows, Chiswick, 1.0).

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester v Harrogate; Formby v Neston; Sheffield Bankers v Ben Rhydding; Swahwell v Southport; Timperley v Norton; Wigan v Durham Univ.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Blossomfield v Hampton in Arden; Bloxwich v Northampton Saints; Coventry and North Warwicks v Harborne; Edgbaston v Nottingham; Khalsa v Olton & West Warwicks; North Stafford v North Notts.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England v Scotland (at Lilleshall, 3.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Crystal Palace v Thames Valley Tigers (7.30); Derby Storm v Manchester Giants (7.30); Leicester Riders v Worthing Bears (7.30); Newcastle Eagles v Chester Jets (7.30); Watford Royals v Sheffield Sharks (7.30).

BOWLS: Women's British championships (at Darlington).

ICE HOCKEY: Play-offs: Semi-finals: Manchester Storm v Ayr Scottish Eagles (6.30); Sheffield Steelers v Cardiff Devils (6.30).

MOTOR RALLYING: Vauxhall Rally of Wales.

ROWING: Head of the River race (Mortlake to Putney, 10am).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Five Nations Championship

Ireland v Wales (at Lansdowne Road)

Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup

Semi-finals

Bedford v Sale
Leicester v Gloucester (1.0)

Jewson National League

First division

Harrogate v Leeds
London Welsh v Wharfedale
Morley v Rosslyn Park
Nottingham v Otley
Reading v Newbury
Worcester v Liverpool St Helens

Second division north

Aspatria v Hinckley
Birmingham/Solihull v Kendal
Lichfield v Winnington Park
Nuneaton v Stourbridge
Sandal v Sedgley Park
Sheffield v Preston Grasshoppers
Walsall v Manchester

Second division south

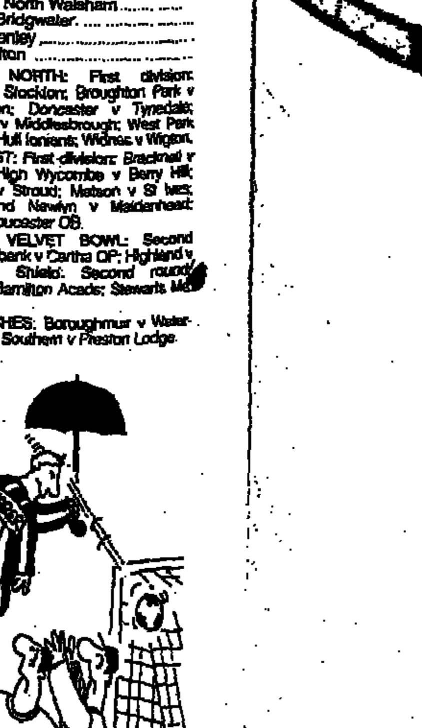
Barking v Cheltenham
Camberley v Havant
Esher v Weston-super-Mare
Met Police v North Walsham
Plymouth v Bridgwater
Redruth v Henley
Taberd v Clifton

THWAITES NORTH: First division: Bridlington v Stockton; Broughton Park v New Brighton; Doncaster v Tynedale; Macclesfield v Middlesbrough; West Park Bramhope v Hull Ionians; Widnes v Wigton.

SOUTH WEST: First division: Bracknell v Barnstaple; High Wycombe v Berry Hill; Launceston v Stroud; Matson v St Ives; Penzance and Newlyn v Maidenhead; Torquay v Gloucester OB.

TENNENTS VELVET BOWL: Second round: Clydebank v Cartha QP; Highland v Cambuslang. Shield: Second round: Cumnock v Hamilton Acads; Stewarts Mel FP v Duns.

CLUB MATCHES: Boroughmuir v Waterloo; Glasgow Southern v Preston Lodge.



TOMORROW

RUGBY UNION

Five Nations Championship

Scotland v England (at Murrayfield, 3.0)

FOOTBALL

Nationwide League
First division

Middlesbrough v Norwich (1.0)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cork v St Patrick's Ath (2.0), Shamrock v Dundalk (3.15); UCD v Drogheda (3.15).

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Torrington v Melksham Town (3.0)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Liverpool FC Ladies v Bradford Ladies (2.0), Tranmere Rovers Ladies v Millwall Lionesses (2.0). Premier League Cup: Final: Arsenal Ladies v Croydon Ladies (at Barnet FC 2.30).

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Canterbury v Doncaster (at Polo Farm, 1.0); East Grinstead v Barford Tigers (at Saint Hill, 2.30); Guildford v Cannock (at Broadwater School, 2.0); Hounslow v Beeston (at Dukes Meadows, 2.0); Old Loughtonians v Southgate (at Chigwell, 2.0); Reading v Teddington (at Sonning Lane, 2.0). First division: Blueharts v Chelmsford (at Hitchin School, 2.0). Bournville v Indian Gymkhana (at King Edward's GS, 2.0), Bromley v Isca (at Priory Leisure Centre, Orpington, 2.0); Brooklands v Hampstead and W (at Georges Road, Sale, 2.0); Firebrands v St Albans (at Longwood, 2.0). Gloucester City v Stourport (at Flock Court 2.0), Harleston Magpies v Havant (at Shelford Heath, 2.0); Oxford University v Lewes (at Tilsey Park, 2.0); Sheffield v Oxford Hawks (at Abbeydale Park, 2.0); Surbiton v Loughborough (at Sugden Road, 2.0); Warrington v Hull (at Penketh County HS, 2.0)

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England v Scotland (at Lilleshall 11.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

First division

Dewsbury v Leigh
Hull KR v Rochdale
Hunslet v Featherstone (3.30)
Wakefield v Swinton (3.30)
Whitehaven v Keighley (3.30)

Club matches

Bradford v St Helens
Halifax v Leeds
Warrington v Huddersfield

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: All-Star game: North v South (at Sheffield Arena, 6.0). Budweiser League: Sheffield Sharks v Birmingham Bullets (4.0)

ICE HOCKEY: Play-offs: Semi-finals: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Manchester Storm (7.30); Cardiff Devils v Sheffield Steelers (6.0).

ROWING: Women's and lightweights Boat Races (Henley, 2.0).

Strength of purpose can give Radcliffe her day in the sun

David Powell on the inner confidence of a Briton making strides towards gold

To win the most competitive foot race in the world, everything has to be right. It was for Paula Radcliffe — until Wednesday morning. Suddenly, the uncertainty was worrying. Would everything be fine again come Saturday?

"I woke up with a sore throat, which I am not very happy about," Radcliffe said. Yet, such is her strength of purpose, so switched on is she to winning gold at the world cross country championships in Marrakesh today, that she made light of the subject. "It is probably just nerves," she added.

Otherwise, nothing Radcliffe said had a hint of being negative. Yesterday she felt an improvement and reported: "It got worse during the night but it seems to have gone this morning and I'm hoping it will be OK."

Radcliffe has been delighted with her build-up and, provided she wakes up feeling 100 per cent this morning and her lack of heat acclimatisation does not backfire, has every chance of becoming the first British athlete since Jonathan Edwards, in 1995, to win a senior global title.

In these championships last year, Radcliffe finished second. Comparing now to then, she said: "I am as fit, definitely. All the times in my sessions have been at least as good, some better." The junior champion six years ago, Radcliffe may never have a better chance of senior gold. What contrast if she succeeds. She won the junior championship on snow. Here the sun has been blazing all week and she will be out in the worst of it at lunchtime.

Questioned about the heat, and the fact that she has not won any of her three races this season, Radcliffe responded that these were points not worth worrying about. Of the 25C temperatures, when her month training in Albuquerque was at close to freezing, she said: "There is nothing I can do about it. I do not want to put it in my mind."

Radcliffe has had no warm-weather preparation. After Albuquerque, she went to Portugal. "We were still having to run in long sleeves and tights to get anywhere near heat acclimatisation," she said. "Obviously it is going to suit the Africans more, but heat has never been a problem for me."

From her racing record — two third places and one drop-out — Radcliffe saw an encouraging omen. "I had not won any last year, either," she said. On that occasion she still had the confidence to go with the leaders and make a run for gold 400 metres out. Seven strides from the line, Derartu Tulu, from Ethiopia, came past.

Radcliffe describes the world cross country as "the toughest race to win" and few would disagree. It is only the status of the Olympic Games that leads her to value the world cross country title as "maybe slightly below an Olympic gold". The depth of competition of any single event within the Olympics falls short of the cross country.

Today matters to Radcliffe and so, too, does it to the sport in Great Britain. The last global middle or long-distance running successes were those of Tom McKean, at 800 metres, and Yvonne Murray, at 3,000 metres, in weak 1993 world indoor championships. The last success of substantial note was that of Liz McColgan in the 10,000 metres in the 1991 outdoor world championships.

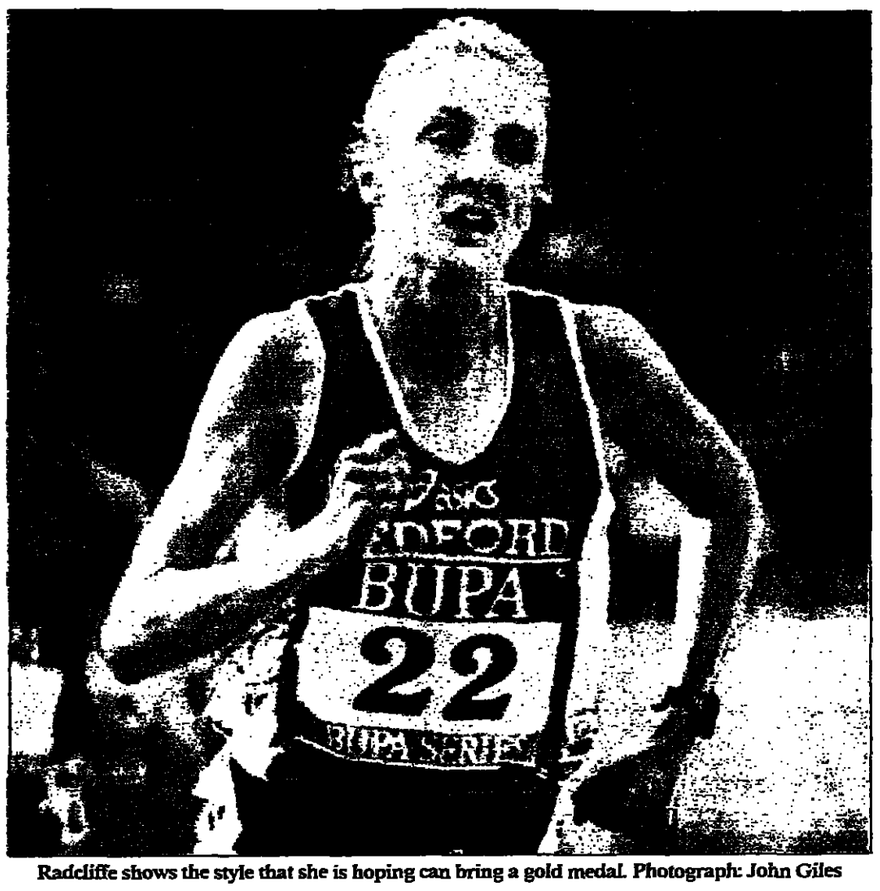
McColgan, though, never won the cross-country title. No British-born woman has won it, though Zola Budd, the South African package mailed from England, triumphed in Lisbon in 1985 and Neuchatel in 1986.

Traditionally, the world cross country has brought together athletes from a range of distances and the introduction this year of short-course championships has had little effect in watering down the main event. That said, this is not a vintage field.

Tulu is injured, Gete Wami, her compatriot and champion in 1996, is out of form, Fernanda Ribeiro, the Olympic 10,000 metres champion from Portugal, is not expected and Catherina McKiernan, from Ireland, four times runner-up, is concentrating on the London Marathon.

So who does Radcliffe think might give her the most trouble? "Sally Barsosio, definitely," came the decisive reply. Barsosio, 10,000 metres winner at the track world championships in Athens.

Other challengers include Sonia O'Sullivan, from Ireland, Julia Vaquero, from Spain, Naomi Mugo and Jackline Maranga, from Kenya, and Merima Denboba, from Ethiopia. The men's race tomorrow sees Paul Tergat, from Kenya, going for a fourth successive title.



Radcliffe shows the style that she is hoping can bring a gold medal. Photograph: John Giles

HOCKEY

Games of risk await Cannock

By Sydney Friskin

PREMIER division clubs in the men's National League face a double-header this weekend as the competition enters its final phase and, providing Cannock and Canterbury win both their matches, the top two will battle it out for the title at Cannock on March 29.

Although Canterbury are taking nothing for granted, they have an easier task with home matches against the two teams at the bottom of the table, Beeston, today, and Doncaster, tomorrow.

Cannock, the leaders, must tread a more hazardous path. They visit Teddington today and tomorrow they are at Guildford, both of whom are high-scoring teams. Cannock have already beaten Teddington 3-2 and Guildford 6-2 this season but Martin Gilbody, the Cannock manager, said: "We are not taking notice of either of those results. The team is fighting fit and will take things one at a time."

Cannock can expect tough opposition from Teddington, who are now preparing for the European Cup Winners' Cup tournament in Holland over the Easter weekend. Teddington meet Reading tomorrow.

Guildford, threatened with relegation at one time, now seem to be safe but Hounslow are not out of danger and much will depend on their home game against Beeston tomorrow.

The first division programme will be wrapped up tomorrow. Most of the interest is focused on the bottom of the table, with Bournville and Brooklands having already earned promotion to the premier division. Of the 22 teams in the first division, the last three will revert to their respective regional leagues. Blueharts, St Albans and Oxford Hawks will be fighting for survival. Warrington have already been relegated.

Souyave puts task in focus

By Cathy Harris

MAGGIE SOUYAVE, the England coach, has called on the players to concentrate on their performances rather than worry about selection when they meet Scotland at Lilleshall today and tomorrow. The squad for the World Cup finals in Utrecht in May will be announced at the end of this month.

Only Hilary Rose, the first-choice goalkeeper, is missing from England's 22-strong party. A student at the University of Massachusetts, Rose is unavailable because of academic commitments. Souyave, who will announce two different sides for the Scotland games, has called up Katy Roberts in her place.

Souyave said that she is nearing a decision on the final World Cup selection with ten players already pencilled in. For the other six, outstanding performances against Scotland could be enough for them to clinch their place. "These matches will help to sway my opinion and have a bearing on the composition of the team," Souyave said.

"I expect Scotland will be aggressive and physical and some of our younger players won't have experienced the passion of an England versus Scotland encounter before. It will offer them a different challenge and I want them to concentrate on continual improvement rather than selection issues. I'll obviously be trying different combinations, but we'll be treating the games seriously."

Scotland, who have already named their final team, have problems with Diane Renilson, a defender struggling with a back injury, and Sue Gilmour missing because of league play-offs with her Dutch club, HGC.

Mike Gilbert, the coach, has added Gill Soutar and Nikki Kleppang to his squad, saying that he intends playing a more attacking style.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm) °C	Last snow
ANDORRA							
Soldeu	50	110	good	varied	slushy	sun 1	12/3
(Upper slopes remain good: lower areas getting worn)							
AUSTRIA							
Kitzbühel	5	160	good	powder	art	cloud 0	20/3
(More fresh snow today: good skiing on all open runs)							
Obergurgl	55	175	good	varied	good	snow −5	20/3
(Excellent skiing on all pistes)							
Sol	10	100	good	powder	fair	cloud 1	20/3
(All open pistes skiing well with powdery snow)							
FRANCE							
Alpe D'huez	85	280	fair	varied	fair	sun 0	12/3
(Conditions holding up despite hot sunshine)							
Avoriaz	105	135	fair	spring	slushy	sun 5	12/3
(Typical spring snow conditions but still mostly OK)							
Les 2 Alpes	40	280	good	crusty	worn	sun 2	12/3
(Pistes still good above 2000m. Not so warm)							
Val D'Isère	95	210	good	varied	hard	sun 3	12/3
(Great spring snow developing off-piste)							
Val Thorens	85	250	good	varied	fair	sun 6	12/3
(Very good skiing overall: lower south slopes wearing)							
SWITZERLAND							
Mürren	20	80	good	varied	worn	fair 3	15/3
(Schilthorn pistes good but lower areas patchy)							
Verbier	15	140	good	varied	slush	fine 6	12/3
(Still good snow above 2,300 on north facing runs)							
Wengen	0	40	fair	varied	closed	fair 3	13/3
(Still some reasonable snow despite mild weather)							
UNITED STATES							
Aspen	135	160	good	powder	good	cloud 4	19/3
(Excellent skiing on fresh snow)							
C Butte	140	165	good	powder	good	cloud 3	19/3
(Great powder skiing in nearly all areas)							

Source. Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.



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RACING: PREVIOUS WINNER CHASES DOUBLE IN UTTOXETER FEATURE

Irish find Another Excuse to extend celebrations

By Chris McGrath and Richard Evans



JULIAN HERBERT

Swinburn rides in Britain for the first time since last April in the Teletext Winter Derby at Lingfield today

TODAY'S card at Uttoxeter has developed a reputation as something of a sanctuary for shell-shocked Cheltenham punters. In recent years, Laura's Beau (1992) and Another Excuse (1996) have provided Irish visitors with the means to pay for the ferry home. Enough short-priced bankers went in at this week's Festival, however, for it to be rather a question of playing up their winnings in search of a first-class air ticket.

With Istabraq and Florida Pearl living up to expectations, not to mention five winners for Tony McCoy, it was instead the bookmakers who needed to get out of trouble. Cool Dawn's 25-1 success in the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup at least means that they can afford to offer prices on the Marstons Pedigree Midlands Grand National.

Martin Pipe saddles Dom Samourai, who had been accused of temperament problems before seeming to turn over a new leaf this season. He still takes plenty of stoking up, but travelled with more dash at Haydock last time. However, the grey's new rating amounts to a lot of weight for a small horse.

Moreover, the ground will be much faster here — compounding the obvious flaw in the otherwise well treated Kamikaze, which is an appropriately reckless approach to jumping (has thrown away two races with late blunders on previous visits here). Another whose form is in the mud is Una's Choice, himself prone to errors.

The Irish nonetheless provide the value in **Another Excuse**, returning to the scene of his finest hour. He romped home that day, by a distance, off a mark just 2lb lower. Sidelined last season, he will have been sharpened up by a recent outing at Downpatrick and can reverse form with the third, Miss Orchestra.

With the Lincoln meeting at Doncaster starting next Thursday, Flat enthusiasts are offered an early opportunity to sample the treats in store thanks to Lingfield staging a cracking £50,000-added ten-furlong race, the Teletext Winter Derby.

Apart from the substantial prize-money, which has attracted 14 runners, the all-weather race offers Walter Swinburn the chance to ride for the first time in Britain since last April. The talented rider, whose weight problems caused him to take a sabbatical, returned to action in Dubai last month and rode a winner on only his second mount. Swinburn partners Drive Assured, trained by Clive Brittain, who will be one of the outsiders and makes limited appeal.

The difference between turf and all-weather racing is epitomised by **Ambiguous**, who showed nothing on grass last summer, but has appeared a different animal when winning twice at Wolverhampton in recent weeks. Sired by Arazi, he was trained in California until last June, so his liking for dirt is hardly a surprise.

The David Loder-trained three-year-old recorded a decent time when winning by 12 lengths last time and, although he is officially rated several pounds below some of his rivals, he is the most progressive horse in the field and should appreciate the trip.

Farmost improved last season and completed four victories at Wolverhampton with a listed race success from Running Stag, but the biggest threat may be posed by Steamroller Stanly, who has developed into a Lingfield specialist.

RICHARD EVANS

NAP: Carlingford Gale (12.45 Uttoxeter)
Next best: Logical Step (4.40 Lingfield Park)

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER

12.45 River Bay
1.15 Freddie Muck
1.45 Winn's Pride
2.20 Kamikaze
2.55 Sydney Twothousand
3.25 Listen Timmy
4.00 Country Orchid

GOING: GOOD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

12.45 EBF TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) MARES NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£10,455: 2m 5f) (10 runners)

101	04-12UF	SUPREME LADY 16 (D,G) (Supreme Lady Pinrs) Miss H Knight 7-12-0	Mr S Durack (5)	127
102	353-144	MELSTOCK MEGGIE 14 (S) (Lady Cobham) C Brooks 8-11-10	G Bradley	130
103	5333136	GREENFLAG PRINCESS 9 (G,S) (Yawl Bay Seafood) J J Mangan (Ire) 7-11-5	C F Swan	130
104	P3-1225	RIVER BAY 58 (S) (Riverwood Racing) Miss H Knight 7-10-12	B Fenton	127
105	212-F01	LADY HIGH SHERIFF 16 (G,S) (M Ward-Thomas) T Forster 8-10-8	N Williamson	124
106	P8-U11F	CARLINGFORD GALE 14 (C,D,F,S) (Mrs A Gamble) T George 7-10-6	R Johnson	140
107	2411P22	WINNOW 18 (BF,G,S) (Enigma Racing) Miss H Knight 8-10-0	P Carberry	139
108	056/6-2	GO MARY 16 (D,G,S) (Miss C Phillips) Miss C Phillips 12-10-0	W Marston	120
109	324PF13	OWENS QUEST 11 (BF,D,F,G,S) (London Racing Club) T Etherington 8-10-0	R Supple	121
110	-F0614P	COPPERHURST 7 (G,S) (W Kemp) W Kemp 7-10-0	B Powell	114

Long handicap: Winnow 9-11, Go Mary 9-8, Owens Quest 9-7, Copperhurst 9-6

BETTING: 11-4 Carlingford Gale, 5-1 Supreme Lady, 11-2 Lady High Sheriff, 13-2 Winnow, 8-1 River Bay, Go Mary, 10-1 Melstock Meggie, Greenflag Princess, 16-1 others

1997: TELLICHERRY 8-10-7 J Culloty (6-1) Miss H Knight 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Supreme Lady fell in novice chase at Taunton (3m, good). Melstock Meggie 10l 4th of 7 to Calm Down in novice handicap chase at Warwick (3m 4f, soft) with Carlingford Gale (levels) fell. Greenflag Princess 18l 6th of 13 to Steel Dawn in handicap chase at Tramore (3m, good to soft). River Bay 22l 5th of 6 to Careysville in handicap chase at Ludlow (3m, good). Lady High Sheriff beat Go Mary (8lb better off) 7l in 8-runner novice chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good). Winnow 7l 2nd of 10 to Who Am I in handicap chase at Leicester (2m 4f, good).

The consistent WINNOW can complete a double in the race for her stable

1.15 TOTE NOVICES CHASE FINAL — BBC1
(Handicap: £13,615: 3m 2f) (9 runners)

201	00-R11R	WISLEY WONDER 26 (D,F,G,S) (Wisley Golf Ptnrs) N Twiston-Davies 8-12-0	C Maude	109
202	U41F4F1	ORGAN RECITAL 15 (S) (Lady Anne Bentinck) D Brennan 9-11-9	M Brennan	117
203	210-F11	SWANBISTER 15 (F,G,S) (Col D Greig) L Lungo 8-11-8	R Supple	141
204	630-314	FREDDIE MUCK 59 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs C T-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-5	C Llewellyn	127
205	32243/1	STEEL MOSS 37 (G) (T Fiorillo) C Barwell 9-11-3	B Fenton	135
206	1/P2333	GREVILLE AGAIN 15 (D,S) (Mrs H Clarke) D Nicholson 9-10-11	R Johnson	121
207	552-332	MILLERSFORD 37 (BF,G) (Mrs D Fletcher) H Gaselee 7-10-6	W Marston	136
208	-251401	GALEN 32 (B,G) (Mrs T Sharratt) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-1	N Williamson	130
209	2/F-422	AMAZON LILY 19 (S) (Mrs J Eales) R Rowe 11-10-0	B Powell	114

BETTING: 6-4 Swanbister, 4-1 Organ Recital, 7-1 Steel Moss, 8-1 Freddie Muck, Millersford, 9-1 Galen, 14-1 Amazon Lily, Greville Again, 20-1 Wisley Wonder

1997: JUDICIOUS CAPTAIN 10-10-0 Mr C Storey (12-1) Mrs J Storey 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Wisley Wonder refused in Warwick novice chase (3m 2f, good); previously beat High Handed 1¼l in 11-runner Huntingdon novice chase (3m, good to soft) with Amazon Lily (16lb better) 23l 4th and Organ Recital (5lb better) fell. Organ Recital beat Sharp Command 2½l in 7-runner Doncaster novice chase (3m, soft). Swanbister beat Callemoy 6l in 16-runner Kelso novice chase (3m, good). Freddie Muck 20l 4th of 15 to Organ Recital (10lb worse) in Huntingdon novice chase (3m, good to soft). Steel Moss beat Millersford (11lb better) 11l in 8-runner Wincanton novice chase (3m 1f, good). Greville Again 14l 3rd of 8 to Majors Legacy in Newbury novice handicap chase (3m, heavy). Galen dead-heated with Silly Pet in 12-runner Sedgefield novice chase (3m 3f, good). Amazon Lily 3l 2nd of 8 to Calleva Star in novice chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, good).

SWANBISTER, packed with potential, appeals on his handicap debut

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
L Lungo	5	9	55.6	A P McCoy	27	96	28.1
M Pipe	37	124	29.8	J F Titley	9	38	23.7
C Brooks	7	25	28.0	G Bradley	7	32	21.9
N Henderson	8	32	25.0	R Supple	7	37	18.9
Mrs H Knight	17	70	24.3	P Carberry	3	16	18.8

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

1.45 DHL WORLDWIDE EXPRESS HANDICAP HURDLE — BBC1
(£8,689: 2m 6f 110yd) (11 runners)

301	1-22141	NIGEL'S LAD 35 (G) (N Dunnington) P Haslam 6-12-0	A P McCoy	146
302	40-2511	WHAT'S YOUR STORY 14 (D,G,S) (J Wright) P R Webber 9-10-10	A Thornton	141
303	2U11-23	ZANDER 7 (G) (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-7	C Llewellyn	155
304	3-13312	NORDIC PRINCE 15 (BF,C,D,F,G) (B O'Kane) J O'Shea 7-10-4	Michael Brennan (3)	130
305	24-1115	BEECHFIELD FLYER 22 (S) (Mrs M Robertson) W Clay 7-10-3	G Tormey	132
306	311-385	BEGGARS BANQUET 19 (F,S) (E Roddock) S Kettlewell 8-10-3	P Carberry	128
307	1113211	DERRING BRIDGE 175 (C,F,G,S) (I Johnson) Mrs S Johnson 8-10-0	R Johnson	120
308	-123442	SHARP COMMAND 15 (F) (A Holland) P Eccles 5-10-0	B Fenton	136
309	5-03153	DOUBLE AGENT 19 (G,S) (Hertford Offset) J H Johnson 5-10-0	N Williamson	126
310	-303040	WINN'S PRIDE 22 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs W Bailey) R Hollinshead 7-10-0	S Wynne	130
311	534/60/	VISION OF PEACE 791 (B Cahill) D Shaw 8-10-0	C F Swan	–

Long handicap: Derring Bridge 9-13, Sharp Command 9-12, Double Agent 9-11, Winn's Pride 9-6, Vision Of Peace 8-11

BETTING: 4-1 Nigel's Lad, 9-2 Beggars Banquet, 5-1 Zander, 7-1 What's Your Story, 8-1 Beechfield Flyer, Double Agent, 10-1 Nordic Prince, 12-1 Derring Bridge, Sharp Command, 16-1 Vision Of Peace, 33-1 Winn's Pride.

1997: WINN'S PRIDE 6-10-8 S Wynne (25-1) R Hollinshead 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Nigel's Lad beat Dara Point neck in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 5f 110yd, good). What's Your Story beat Uncle Doug ¾l in 5-runner handicap hurdle at Doncaster (3m 110yd, soft). Zander 3l 3rd of 5 to Outstayquy in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Nordic Prince ¾l 2nd of 10 to Lord York in novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, soft). Beechfield Flyer 8¾l 5th of 9 to Dana Point in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good). Derring Bridge beat Thirty Below 2l in 4-runner handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (3m, good). Sharp Command 2½l 2nd of 7 to Organ Recital in novice chase at Doncaster (3m, soft). Double Agent 2¾l 3rd of 9 to Invest Wisely in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (3m, good to firm) with Beggars Banquet (5lb better off) 4¾l 5th. Winn's Pride 44l 14th of 18 to Green Crusader in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good).

NIGEL'S LAD, assisted by Tony McCoy, is taken to defy top weight

2.20 MARSTONS PEDIGREE MIDLANDS GRAND NATIONAL — BBC1
(Handicap chase: £36,986: 4m 2f) (15 runners)

401	2-43P33	EUDIPE 7 (G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 6-12-0	DOUBTFUL	140
402	1212421	DOM SAMOURAI 21 (B,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 7-11-11	C Maude	145
403	54-3224	CALL IT A DAY 21 (BF,C,G,S) (Mrs J Lane) D Nicholson 9-11-10	R Johnson	142
404	3141210	ANOTHER EXCUSE 17 (B,CD,S) (Ostrang Synd) E O'Sullivan (Ire) 10-11-4	B Powell	–
405	/1142-P	INTO THE RED 21 (F,G,S) (J Hockin) Mrs M Reveley 14-11-4	G Lee	–
406	F04-12U	KAMIKAZE 42 (G,S) (Major B Gatenbury) K Bailey 8-11-1	N Williamson	150
407	1/3003P	GIMME FIVE 4 (G,S) (J McManus) E O'Grady (Ire) 11-10-12	C F Swan	141
408	306-125	FISSURE SEAL 34 (F,G,S) (Delton Syndicate) G Hoongan (Ire) 12-10-4	P Carberry	126
409	0541010	UNA'S CHOICE 51 (G,S) (Fisk & Poultry Portions) F Flood (Ire) 10-10-3	F J Flood	150
410	/F-1P03	OVER THE DEEL 11 (C,F,G,S) (G Tobitt) J Howard Johnson 12-10-0	A Thornton	137
411	-11R52P	TOP JAVALIN 14 (B,C,G,S) (Mrs V Thurn) N Hawke 11-10-0	R Greene	134
412	F43S1U2	MISS ORCHESTRA 17 (BF,S) (BB Club) Mrs J Harrington (Ire) 7-10-0	R J Geraghty	140
413	-412523	KARAR 39 (F,S) (Mrs M Sampson) R Rowe 8-10-0	A Garrity (7)	132
414	0P-3533	COOL RUNNER 35 (B,S) (G Nock) Mrs S Nock 8-10-0	Mr S Durack (5)	126
415	4UP-0R4	WOODLANDS GENHIRE 11 (B,D,F) (Woodlands Ltd) P Pritchard 13-10-0	C Llewellyn	94

Long handicap: Over The Deel 9-11, Top Javalin 9-7, Miss Orchestra 9-6, Karar 8-13, Cool Runner 8-0, Woodlands Genhire 7-7

BETTING: 4-1 Kamikaze, 9-2 Dom Samourai, 7-1 Call It A Day, Miss Orchestra, Una's Choice, 10-1 Fissure Seal, Gimme Five, 12-1 Over The Deel, 14-1 Another Excuse, 16-1 Into The Red, Karar, 25-1 others.

1997: SEVEN TOWERS 8-11-4 P Niven (4-1) Mrs M Reveley 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Dom Samourai beat Him Of Praise 7l in 15-runner handicap chase at Haydock (3m 4f 110yd, soft) with Call It A Day (8lb better off) a distance 4th and Into The Red (8lb better off) pulled up. Kamikaze led and unseated rider in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 4f, soft); previously 6l 2nd of 5 to Sail By The Stars in handicap chase at Lingfield (3m, soft). Fissure Seal 26l 5th of 14 to Tell The Nipper in handicap chase at Fairyhouse (3m 1f, good to soft) with Miss Orchestra (10lb worse off) unseated rider. Over The Deel 19l 3rd of 11 to For Cathal in handicap chase at Sedgefield (3m 4f, good to soft). Top Javalin pulled up in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 5f, soft); previously neck 2nd of 7 to Thermal Warrior in handicap chase at Taunton (4m 2f 110yd, soft). Miss Orchestra 4¼l 3rd of 14 to Ontheroadagain in handicap chase at Downpatrick (3m 4f, good to soft) with Another Excuse (7lb better off) 21l 7th. Karar 11l 3rd of 9 to A N C Express in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 5f, good)

KAMIKAZE, unlucky when falling in the lead last time, is worth another chance

2.55 EXTERIOR PROFILES NOVICES HURDLE
(£5,248: 2m 4f 110yd) (9 runners)

501	3/F-4P1	CALON LAN 15 (S) (H Brown) N Henderson 7-11-10	M A Fitzgerald	114
502	442-123	DRAMATIST 264 (G) (Miss M Rowland) Miss M Rowland 7-11-10	N Williamson	112
503	11-441	VITAL ISSUE 9 (S) (Anne, Duchess of Westminster) J J O'Neill 6-11-7	P Carberry	120
504	-004203	KING PADDY 7 (Mrs S Evans) Mrs S Johnson 6-11-2	Mr S Durack	112
505	06/00	RICHES TO RAGS 59 (Riches To Rags Partnership) D Nicholson 6-11-2	R Johnson	94
506	2-462	SYDNEY TWOTHOUSAND 14 (M Watt) Miss H Knight 6-11-2	G Bradley	132
507	03330	I'M MAGGY 28 (Mrs H Clarke) S Brookshaw 8-10-11	S Wynne	115
508	3222	ROSSMORE GIRL 14 (BF) (Mrs S Tainton) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-11	C Llewellyn	128
509	32PP432	SECOND FIDDLE 28 (D Brennan) D Brennan 8-10-11	M Brennan	126

BETTING: 2-1 Sydney Twothousand, 4-1 Vital Issue, 5-1 Rossmore Girl, Calon Lan, 12-1 Dramatist, 14-1 others.

1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS Calon Lan beat Phar Better 6l in 9-runner novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy). Dramatist 5½l 3rd of 10 to Fair Society in handicap hurdle at Limerick (2m 5f, firm). Vital Issue beat Hurst Flyer 6l in 7-runner novice hurdle at Carlisle (3m 110yd, heavy). Sydney Twothousand 16l 2nd of 5 to Lady Rebecca in novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, soft). Rossmore Girl 2l 2nd of 8 to Ken Risk in novice handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m, soft).

VITAL ISSUE can confirm the promise of his recent Carlisle victory

3.25 LADBROKE HANDICAP CHASE (£7,133: 2m 5f) (12 runners)

601	152/P41	EASY BUCK 14 (F,G,S) (J & J Cook) C Morlock 11-12-0	A Thornton	140
602	F-33322	GLEMOT 119 (CD,F,G,S) (D Yardy) P R Webber 10-11-12	N Williamson	131
603	-PP1U04	EASBY JOKER 18 (F,G,S) (G Orchard) S Kettlewell 10-11-9	P Carberry	–
604	4-111	LISTEN TIMMY 92 (C,G,S) (Sentinel Racing Club) S Brookshaw 9-11-8	S Wynne	150
605	-P54611	EASTHORPE 14 (F,G,S) (M Broughton) Miss H Knight 10-11-4	J F Titley	141
606	221431-	POLDEN PRIDE 304 (D,F,S) (Lockyer/Parry/Balding) G Balding 10-11-3	B Clifford	126
607	310-211	CATTLY HANG 42 (G,S) (W Morgan) J Leigh 8-11-3	Mr S Durack (5)	146
608	04P05-	MR JAMBOREE 365 (CD,F,G) (Mrs D Lousada) I Williams 12-10-13	R Johnson	–
609	U21P51F	STANMORE 14 (BF,G,S) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 6-10-2	C F Swan	140
610	1F1-414	AFTER THE FOX 18 (F,G) (A Brooke Rankin) N Hawke 11-10-0	R Greene	134
611	-F12346	BALLYLINE 63 (G,S) (49 Partnership) W Kemp 7-10-0	B Powell	131
612	P1F-P36	FLAMING MIRACLE 25 (B,F,G) (J Bradbury) G Barnett 8-10-0	C Llewellyn	114

Long handicap: After The Fox 9-11, Ballyline 9-7, Flaming Miracle 8-9.

BETTING: 9-4 Listen Timmy, 7-2 Cattly Hang, 5-1 Easthorpe, 6-1 Stanmore, 9-1 Glemot, 14-1 Easy Buck, 16-1 After The Fox, 20-1 Polden Pride, 25-1 others.

1997: DISCO DES MOTTES 6-11-7 R Dunwoody (11-8 fav) G Richards 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Easy Buck beat Too Plush a distance in 2-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, soft). Glemot 6l 2nd of 5 to Cool Dawn in handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good to soft). Easby Joker a distance 4th of 11 to What Jim Wants in novice handicap hurdle at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Listen Timmy beat Absolutly Equiname 8l in 8-runner novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good to soft). Easthorpe beat Marble Man 15l in 5-runner handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 3f 110yd, soft). Polden Pride beat Allo George 3l in 3-runner handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). Cattly Hang beat All The Aces ½l in 6-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good). Stanmore, penultimate start, beat Brogeen Lady 7l in 6-runner handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft).

EASTHORPE has regained his form and can give another good account

4.00 TURF NEWSPAPERS NOVICES HURDLE (£3,615: 2m) (15 runners)

1	P015122	DAN DE MAN 15 (BF,D,S) (D Poulter Ptnrs) Miss L Siddall 7-11-5	A Thornton	126
2	-112212	COUNTRY ORCHID 35 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Kehoe) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-3	G Lee	128
3	21-033	BIG PERKS 36 (D,F) (R Perkins) P Dalton 8-11-1	C Maude	120
4	580	COL MINOR 8 (Warwick Members Racing Club) R Dickin 5-11-1	X Aizpuru (3)	90
5	3284-43	DAMIEN'S CHOICE 10 (M Sawers) Mrs M Jones 6-11-1	D Byrne	100
6	6-13F2	JOKING ASIDE 28 (S) (G Hourigan) G Hourigan (Ire) 6-11-1	C F Swan	122
7	4	PADDINGTON JONES 10 (J Singleton) D McCain 5-11-1	S Wynne	–
8	3343-FF	PENROSE LAD 38 (Mrs C Weatherby) P R Webber 8-11-1	R Johnson	111
9	d3	PREMIER CRU 91 (R Ogden) M Todhunter 6-11-1	P Carberry	–
10	00/8-0	REGAL BLUFF 287 (Miss M Sheridan) J McConnochie 6-11-1	B Powell	–
11	03860	THE CAVIAR MAN 48 (Mrs S Nelson) M Morris (Ire) 6-11-1	N Williamson	100
12	0000	YOU'RE AGOODUN 8 (J Lamminam) D Shaw 5-11-1	I Lawrence	85
13	334-	ALISANDE 383 (Pell Mell Partners) J Glover 6-10-10	C Llewellyn	–
14	130-302	MEMSAHIB OFESTEEM 35 (D,G) (T Frandsen Jones) S Gollings 7-10-10	A P McCoy	114
15	60F	DIE FLEDERMAUS 39 (Lady Vestey) Miss H Knight 4-10-7	M A Fitzgerald	–

BETTING: 5-2 Country Orchid, 4-1 Joking Aside, 7-1 Dan De Man, Memsahib Ofesteem, 8-1 Big Perks, 10-1 others

1997: SHEKELS 6-11-1 G Bradley (4-1) C Brooks 12 ran

FORM FOCUS Dan De Man 12l 2nd of 14 to George Dillingham in novice handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m, soft). Country Orchid 4l 2nd of 8 to House Of Dreams in handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, good). Joking Aside neck 2nd of 20 to Cap It If You Can in maiden hurdle at Gowran (2m, good to soft). Premier Cru 13l 3rd of 9 to Festive Teak in NH flat race at Haydock (2m, good to soft). Memsahib Ofesteem 1l 2nd of 13 to Joe Buzz in novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 3f, good).

With the ground riding faster, DAN DE MAN is taken to resume winning ways

Zander to prove virtue of patience

UTTOXETER
BBC1

1.15: Though a faller on his chasing debut, Swanbister has since looked a natural, albeit on softer ground. He did win a bumper on fast going, but his price is likely to reflect promise rather than achievement. Erratic jumping has cost **Organ Recital** a couple of races, but he really got his act together last time and — with no worries about his jumping on this ground — might prove better value.

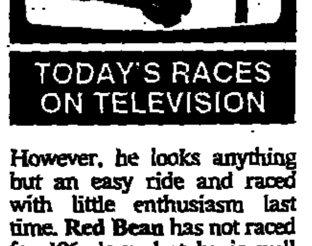
1.45: Winn's Pride is worth noting at a big price; he has been disappointing of late, after showing encouragement in unsuitably testing ground earlier in the season. Though out of the handicap, he could bounce back to form returned to the scene of last year's win. Beggars Banquet caught everyone's eye on his first start for a new trainer, but **Zander** is expected to fare better with a more patient ride than when committed a long way out in the Chepstow mud.

2.20: see above

CHRIS MCGRATH

LINGFIELD PARK
CHANNEL 4

3.10: There are question marks against most of these, including Lobster Cottage, who made customary jumping errors before winning handsomely at Doncaster last time. If Mouse Bird recaptured the form which saw him win over course and distance in January before finishing third here to Champleve, the subsequent Arkle winner, he would win.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

However, he looks anything but an easy ride and raced with little enthusiasm last time. **Red Bean** has not raced for 106 days, but he is well treated judged on his winning form over course and distance a year ago.

3.40: Sadler's Realm has improved with every run this term and was an excellent second to Blowing Wind in the Imperial Cup at Sandown last Saturday. Handy Lass is a stone better off with the likely favourite for a five-length beating at Exeter, but has been disappointing since that run. The main threat is posed by The Brewer, who returned from a break to win his third race at Exeter off a similarly light weight.

4.10: see above

4.40: Executive King shaped well behind Dantes Cavalier on his chasing debut at Huntingdon two weeks ago, but the form does not add up to much and he could be worth opposing with **Logical Step.** David Gandolfo's runner faced a stiff task giving weight to Calm Down last time and was previously a good second to Calling Wild at Fontwell.

RICHARD EVANS

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.05 Badge Of Fame
2.40 Churchtown Chance
3.10 Lobster Cottage
3.40 ERNEST WILLIAM (nap)
4.10 Steamroller Stanly
4.40 Executive King
5.10 Royal Shrewsbury

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.10 STEAMROLLER STANLY.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (ALL-WEATHER: STANDARD) — SIS

2.05 TELETEXT FOR NEWS NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,210: 2m 3f 110yd) (10 runners)

1	3-132	HAL HOO YAROOM 19 (F) (Ellis & Pinns Ltd) J Jenkins 5-11-8	P Hide	107
2	00	LUCKY MASTER 38 (Mrs A Finn) J Upson 6-11-2	J Magee (3)	–
3	P-03322	MURRAY'S MILLION 10 (Cotswold Connections) J Smith 6-11-2	T J Murphy	96
4	43-120	REPEAT OFFER 28 (S) (D Brick) P Burgoyne 6-11-2	D Gallagher	–
5	0P-	ZIPALONG 360 (Mr P Townsley) Mrs P Townsley 7-11-2	Mr P Townsley	–
6	31	BADGE OF FAME 16 (C,S) (J Lawson-Brown) K Bailey 4-10-12	Mr R Wakley (3)	129
7	22R221	ILE DE LIBRATE 19 (G) (Stampsgate Firms) R O'Sullivan 4-10-13	D O'Sullivan	117
8	045	MY GLENDALOUGH 19 (Mrs M Coyle) G L Moore 5-10-11	M Batchelor (7)	86
9	00P	TINKERS NIGHT 14 (Crawford Gray & Matson) W Musson 7-10-11	M Mooney (7)	77
10	1	GOLDEN MELODY 132 (F) (Amity Finance Ltd) M Heaton-Ellis 4-10-8	R Thornton	103

BETTING: 4-5 Badge Of Fame, 5-1 Ile De Librate, 11-2 Hal Hoo Yaroom, 8-1 Murray's Million, 12-1 others

1997: ELA AGAPI MOU 4-10-12 P Holley (3-4) G L Moore 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Lucky Master 28l 12th of 24 to Indian Spring in NH flat race at Ascot (2m 110yd, good); Murray's Million 6l 2nd of 17 to Palladium Boy in novice handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 4f, good to soft). Repeat Offer 62l 8th of 13 to Galfus in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft). Badge Of Fame beat Woodland Nymph 18l in 6-runner 4yo maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, good to soft). Ile De Librate beat Hal Hoo Yaroom (7lb better off) 7l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, good) with My Glendalough (6lb better off) 28l 5th. Tinkers Night pulled up in selling hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good); previously 34l 10th of 17 to Totally Yours in claiming hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm). Golden Melody beat Circle Of Magic 1l in 12-runner 3yo novice selling hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to firm)

BADGE OF FAME will be hard to beat if staying this extra half-mile

2.40 TELETEXT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP CHASE
(£1,988: 2m 4f 110yd) (10 runners)

1	-F4U424	CHURCHTOWN CHANCE 7 (G,S) (Austen Racing Synd) C Popham 8-11-10	J Magee	100
2	505/3-P	QUINTA ROYALE 23 (F) (L Snook) L Snook 11-11-8	M Batchelor	–
3	3PFP45P	KILLEANEY CARR 26 (F) (Miss J Semple) J Gilbert 7-11-6	D Burrows	100
4	-0335P1	RYTON RUN 26 (D,F,G) (W Odell) Mrs S Odell 13-11-6	A Bates	93
5	/40-4U0	FIRST INSTANCE 37 (Peple Racing) D Grissell 8-11-5	P Henley	76
6	4504264	JOHN TUFTY 29 (G) (G Tufts) J Pearce 7-10-11	L Cummins	119
7	2/PPP00	STEAMBURD 19 (V) (P Everard) J Mallins 8-10-8	David Turner (7)	–
8	/500000	CHALLENGER ROW 5 (B) (No Need To Argue Ptnrs) Miss L Jewell 8-10-8	G Supple	72
9	P6UP0PP	JAVELIN COOL 18 (V) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 7-10-8	R Thornton	–
10	P0FP0PP	CASTLE BARRY 19 (Mrs J Walls) Miss A Newton-Smith 7-10-8	J K McCarthy (7)	88

BETTING: 7-4 John Tufty, 7-2 Churchtown Chance, Ryton Run, 4-1 Killeaney Carr, 12-1 First Instance, 25-1 others.

1997: HANGOVER 11-11-8 P Henley (5-4 fav) R Lee 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Churchtown Chance 36l 4th of 5 to Sparkling Cone in novice chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, soft). Quinta Royale pulled up in novice chase at Wincanton (2m, good to firm); previously 14l 3rd of 13 to Caspian Beluga in novice handicap chase at Worcester (2m, good to soft). Killeaney Carr pulled up in novice chase at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good); previously 11l 5th of 13 to Star Traveller in novice handicap chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to firm) with First Instance (levels) beaten a distance 7th. Ryton Run beat Churchtown Chance (5lb better off) 1¼l in 16-runner selling handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 3f, good). John Tufty 18l 4th of 9 to Luv-U-Frank in handicap chase at Fakenham (3m 110yd, good to firm).

JOHN TUFTY may come out best in a poor race

3.10 TELETEXT FOR SPORT HANDICAP CHASE — C4
(£2,794: 2m) (5 runners)

1	-343134	MOUSE BIRD 33 (B,CD,S) (C Pierce) D Gandolfo 8-12-0	T J Murphy	121
2	1242311	LOBSTER COTTAGE 25 (D,G) (Mason-Dent) K Burgess 10-12-0	Mr R Wakley (3)	128
3	F1U6-03	GEALLAINNBAN 14 (B,D,S) (A Hampton) P Hedger 9-11-9	Mr R Widger (7)	–
4	3-252P4	RED BEAN 106 (CD,F,S) (A Vincent) P Vincent 10-10-13	R Thornton	117
5	22P3UP5	BLACK STATEMENT 37 (B Harron) J Gifford 8-10-0	L Aspell (3)	100

Long handicap: Black Statement 9-1

BETTING: 4-6 Lobster Cottage, 3-1 Mouse Bird, 6-1 Geallainnban, 10-1 Red Bean, 33-1 Black Statement

1997: RED BEAN 9-11-6 M A Fitzgerald (5-1) P Vincent 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Mouse Bird 32l 4th of 7 to Cantleavethenest in novice chase at Plumpton (2m, good). Lobster Cottage beat Nipway 5l in 7-runner handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm). Geallainnban distance last of 3 to Thumbs Up in handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good)

LOBSTER COTTAGE is prone to mistakes but should still complete his treble

3.40 TELETEXT FOR HOLIDAYS GOLD CUP HANDICAP HURDLE — C4
(£4,890: 2m 3f 110yd) (7 runners)

1	F20442-	DANCING PADDY 305 (F,G,S) (Ermine Racing) K O Brown 10-12-0	J R Kavanagh	128
2	0121112	SADLER'S REALM 7 (D,S) (D Racing) P Hobbs 5-10-3	Mr R Widger (7)	139
3	5256414	TICKERTY'S GIFT 18 (B,CD,F,G,S) (G Jones) G L Moore 8-10-7	M Batchelor (7)	129
4	0-11F14	ERNEST WILLIAM 15 (BF,D,F,G,S) (Mrs Hubbard) G Hubbard 8-10-3	R Thornton	138
5	5-21252	HANDY LASS 40 (CD,F,G,S) (Landbury) J Smith 9-10-3	T J Murphy	137
6	-311131	THE BREWER 11 (D,F,G,S) (R Vines Partnership) J Tuck 6-10-0	R Bellamy	135
7	4-05363	HAWTHORNE GLEN 6 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs C Foster) J Long 11-10-0	D Gallagher	117

Long handicap: Hawthorne Glen 9-2

BETTING: 11-10 Sadler's Realm, 7-2 The Brewer, 9-2 Ernest William, 7-1 Tickerty's Gift, 14-1 others

1997: TICKERTY'S GIFT 7-11-13 M Richards (11-4) G L Moore 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Dancing Paddy 20l 2nd of 4 to Yubralee in handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good). Sadler's Realm 4l 2nd of 15 to Blowing Wind in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft), previously beat Handy Lass (12lb better off) 5l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 3f 110yd, heavy). Tickerty's Gift 20l 4th of 5 to Nessun Doro in handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, good to soft). The Brewer beat Rich Life 1½l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, soft)

SADLER'S REALM has nothing of Blowing Wind's calibre to beat here

4.10 TELETEXT WINTER DERBY CONDITIONS STAKES — C4
(All-weather: £35,013: 1m 2f) (14 runners)

1	(10)	611211-	FARMOST 105 (C,F,S) (W Stott) M Prescott 5-9-9	S Sanders	106
2	(6)	634-311	BRILLIANT RED 33 (CD,F) (Mrs M George) P Hedger 5-9-6	A Clark	107
3	(7)	60531-1	CHEWIT 17 (C,F,G) (Sunland) G L Moore 6-9-6	C Lowther	112
4	(6)	11	DIAMOND FLAME 7 (CD) (Cleaning Dozen) P Harris 4-9-6	K Darley	96
5	(13)	635/23-	DRIVE ASSURED 325 (Mr Ahmed) C Brittain 4-9-6	W R Swinburn	85
6	(1)	34-1111	FAYIK 7 (C) (C Bradley) A Newcombe 4-9-6	T Williams	98
7	(4)	1640-45	HEVER GOLF GLORY 7 (G) (Hever Racing Club) T Naughton 4-9-6	D Holland	92
8	(2)	650630-	MAJOR CHANGE 313 (D,F) (Jack In The Box) Mrs G Kelleway 6-9-6	J Reid	100
9	(11)	004000-	PUNKAH 105 (CD,F) (D Hudson) G McCourt 5-9-6	R Studholme	80
10	(14)	006113-	PUZZLEMENT 125 (C) (The Dirt Team) C Brittain 4-9-6	D Harrison	97
11	(9)	0260-14	REFUSE TO LOSE 7 (BF,C,G) (J Smith) J Eustace 4-9-6	J Tate	101
12	(5)	442422-	RUNNING STAG 125 (SD) (R Cowley) P Mitchell 4-9-6	R Cochrane	112
13	(3)	1043-11	STEAMROLLER STANLY 21 (CD,F) (R Lyon) C Cyzer 5-9-6	G Carter	128
14	(12)	000-11	AMBIGUOUS 14 (A Saeed Suhail) D Loder 3-8-1	M Henry	96

BETTING: 4-1 Ambiguous, 9-2 Steamroller Stanly, 7-1 Farmost, 8-1 Brilliant Red, Running Stag, 10-1 others

1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS Farmost beat Running Stag (1lb better off) ¾l in stakes (listed) at Wolverhampton (1m 1f 79yd, AW) with Puzzlement (1lb better off) 7¼l 3rd. Brilliant Red beat Chairmans Choice 2½l in handicap at Lingfield (1m 2f, AW). Chewit beat Classy Cleo 3l in stakes at Wolverhampton (7f, AW). Diamond Flame beat Gralmano ½l in stakes at Wolverhampton (1m 1f 79yd, AW). Drive Assured 9¾l 3rd to Venetian Scene in handicap at Leicester (1m 4f, good to soft). Fayik beat Nomore Mr Niceguy neck in handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, AW). Steamroller Stanly beat White Plains 3½l in stakes at Lingfield (1m 2f, AW). Ambiguous beat Bold Radia 12l in stakes at Wolverhampton (1m, AW)

STEAMROLLER STANLY is a smart performer here and will take some stopping

4.40 PRESS ASSOCIATION MAIDEN CHASE — C4
(£3,028: 2m 4f 110yd) (11 runners)

1	0-80040	ALTHREY PILOT 36 (F Lloyd) R Peacock 7-11-10	R Bellamy	–
2	P-833U4	BENJI 31 (A Jackson) T Casey 7-11-10	D O'Sullivan	81
3	35P-RF3	BROOK BEE 16 (Saxon Partnership) N Gaselee 6-11-10	D Leahy	60
4	-06005U	CLOCK WATCHERS 31 (W Shere) J Bridger 10-11-10	M Batchelor (7)	90
5	P02	EXECUTIVE KING 14 (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 7-11-10	R Thornton	105
6	0-F65SR	GEORGETOWN 3 (Parallel Tapes & Conversions Ltd) J Gifford 7-11-10	P Hide	100
7	4P-4225	LOGICAL STEP 52 (A Smith) D Gandolfo 8-11-10	T J Murphy	104
8	40-F230	MIKE'S MUSIC 115 (B) (Mrs C Notley) D Grissell 7-11-10	J R Kavanagh	–
9	0/0-400	RELKANDER 18 (Mrs M Bockley) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-10	R Farrant	80
10	30P4-00	ZIP YOUR LIP 38 (P Townsley) Mrs P Townsley 8-11-10	Mr P Townsley	–
11	00-F3F3	SCOBIE GIRL 16 (V) (I McGready) J Mullins 8-11-5	A Bates (5)	108

BETTING: 9-4 Executive King, 11-4 Logical Step, 9-2 Scobie Girl, 8-1 Relkander, 10-1 Mike's Music, 12-1 Benji, 16-1 Brook Bee, Georgetown, 25-1 others

1997: AMBER SPARK 9-11-10 N Williamson (3-1) D Gandolfo 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Althrey Pilot 68l 13th of 16 to Jennie's Prospect in novice handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 4f, good to soft). Benji beaten a distance 4th of 10 to Folip in novice chase at Lingfield (2m 4f 110yd, good) with Clock Watchers (levels) unseated rider. Brook Bee 17l 3rd of 7 to Highland Flame in novice handicap chase at Lingfield (2m, good to soft). Executive King neck 2nd of 5 to Dantes Cavalier in novice chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good). Georgetown ran out in handicap chase at Huntingdon (3m, good); previously 16l 5th of 12 to Sierra Bay in novice handicap chase at Folkestone (2m, good to soft) with Clock Watchers (5lb worse off) 28l 7th. Logical Step 28l 5th of 9 to Calm Down in novice handicap chase at Lingfield (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Mike's Music 45l 9th of 15 to Mad Harry in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good); previously 2¼l 3rd of 11 to Maggie Strait in maiden hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, good to firm) with Clock Watchers (levels) 11l 6th. Zip Your Lip 79l 12th of 16 to Peatings in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good). Scobie Girl 12l 3rd of 8 to Lady High Sheriff in mares novice chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good).

EXECUTIVE KING, lightly raced and open to improvement, makes most appeal

5.10 TELETEXT FOR RACING NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,373: 2m 7f) (6 runners)

1	5661	ROYAL SHREWSBURY 9 (S) (J O'Brien Ptnrs) Mrs M Jones 8-11-13	T J Murphy	95
2	0-00043	PURE SWING 19 (U K Letterbox Marketing Ltd) (N L Rh) J Pearce 5-11-4	J Ryan	94
3	0-53044	SHARIAKANNDI 43 (S Clough) J King 6-11-3	R Thornton	109
4	05-36P2	ZAISAN 26 (Mrs M Sweeney) J Gifford 5-11-8	P Hide	99
5	40P-F01	MISTER GENEROSITY 9 (G) (Mrs J Jayes) C Weedon 7-10-12	M Richards	80
6	5P260	BALLYHARRY 9 (V) (D Dbank) P Widdowson 8-10-0	D Burrows (5)	101

Long handicap: Ballyharry 9-8

BETTING: 5-2 Shariakanndi, 3-1 Mister Generosity, 7-2 Royal Shrewsbury, 9-2 Zaisan, 5-1 Pure Swing, 33-1 Ballyharry

1997: WORKINGFORPEANUTS 7-10-0 Mrs D Smith (5-1) C Smith 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Royal Shrewsbury beat Quiet Moments 10l in 16-runner novice handicap hurdle at Towcester (3m, soft) with Ballyharry (7lb better off) 37l 8th. Pure Swing 19l 3rd of 12 to Ile De Librate in novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, good); previously 26l 4th of 9 to Knock Leader in novice hurdle at Fakenham (2m 4f, good to firm). Shariakanndi 17l 4th of 17 to Gallant Taffy in novice handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft); previously 19l 4th of 9 to Belmorebruno in amateur novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 7f, good to soft). Zaisan 17l 2nd of 9 to Nordic Prince in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, good). Mister Generosity beat Win A Hand ½l in 20-runner handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good); previously 23l 8th of 13 to Kinnahalla in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good).

ROYAL SHREWSBURY won well at Towcester and will take all the beating

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
C Weedon	6	15	40.0	D Leahy	4	19	21.1
G L Moore	11	42	26.2	P Hide	5	31	16.1
D O'Sullivan	8	35	22.9	J R Kavanagh	5	43	11.6
D Gandolfo	3	15	20.0	D Gallagher	6	53	11.3
P Hobbs	4	20	20.0	D O'Sullivan	5	46	10.9
J Gifford	8	42	19.0	T J Murphy	3	30	10.0

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Fakenham
Going: good

2.20 (2m hdle) 1, Springfield Rhyme (Mr S Durack, 4-1 fav); 2, Emerald Venture (20-1); 3, Lofty Deed (6-1). 11 ran. 2l, 1¾l. S Gollings. Tote: £5.40; £1.60, £6.10, £2.50. DF: £41.60. Trio: £73.20. CSF: £78.12. Tricast: £451.37

2.50 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Stoney Valley (Mr M Gingell, 4-1); 2, Gatsg (6-1); 3, Chappucci (8-1). Coolvawn Lady 7-2 jt-fav. 12 ran. 12l, sh hd. B Dowling. Tote: £5.00; £1.30, £2.00, £2.70. DF: £15.60. Trio: £61.30. CSF: £26.97.

3.20 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Bassenhally (W Marston, 9-1); 2, Crackling Frost (8-1); 3, Wise Advice (9-2). Manor Mieo 3-1 fav. 9 ran. 3l, 1¾l. Mrs P Sly. Tote: £15.90; £4.00, £2.00, £1.20. DF: £38.90. Trio: £87.10. CSF: £73.46. Tricast: £340.44.

3.50 (2m hdle) 1, Antiguan Flyer (Michael Brennan, 11-2); 2, Classic Eagle (4-1); 3, Green Power (5-2). Misty Cay 9-4 fav. 8 ran. 6l, ¾l. G Prodromou. Tote: £5.70; £2.70, £2.20. DF: £8.30. CSF: £25.12.

4.20 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Broadwater Boy (R Garritty, 10-11 fav); 2, Swan Street (5-2); 3, Focum (3-1). 5 ran. 28l, 4l. M Hammond. Tote: £1.80; £1.60, £1.10. DF: £2.20. CSF: £3.59.

4.50 (2m hdle) 1, Assailable (Michael Brennan, 2-5 fav); 2, Fire On Ice (4-1); 3, Missed Call (20-1). 14 ran. 1¾l, 14l. N Callaghan. Tote: £1.60; £1.20, £1.30, £5.00. DF: £2.80. Trio: £42.30. CSF: £2.73.

Jackpot: £13,472.50.
Placepot: £60.10. Quadpot: £15.00.

Folkestone
Going: good

2.00 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Totally Yours (A P McCoy, 1-4 fav); 2, Golden Lily (16-1); 3, Heretical Miss (50-1). 9 ran. 2½l, 1¾l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.30; £1.50, £1.80, £3.30. DF: £4.00. Trio: £43.50. CSF: £6.41.

2.30 (3m 2f ch) 1, Mystic Isle (J R Kavanagh, 3-1); 2, Forever Dreaming (8-1); 3, Secret Bid (5-4 fav). 4 ran. 3l, 1¾l. N Gaselee. Tote: £4.40. DF: £9.40. CSF: £18.45.

3.00 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Veridian (M A Fitzgerald, 5-4 fav); 2, Mersey Beat (2-1); 3, Purple Ace (12-1). 17 ran. Sh hd, 6l. N Henderson. Tote: £2.40; £1.80, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £2.80. Trio: £16.20. CSF: £3.84.

3.30 (2m ch) 1, Peace Lord (J F Titley, 13-8 fav); 2, Cooltean Hero (2-1); 3, Dear Do (5-2). 5 ran. NR: Thumbs Up. 2l, 5l. Mrs D Haine. Tote: £2.40; £1.80, £1.20. DF: £3.80. CSF: £5.01.

4.00 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Posh Spice (J R Kavanagh, evens fav); 2, Salaman (100-30); 3, Ever Smile (11-4). 5 ran. 1l, 1¾l. N Henderson. Tote: £1.90; £1.50, £2.00. DF: £2.80. CSF: £4.79

4.30 (3m 2f ch) 1, Workingforpeanuts (V Slattery, 7-4 fav); 2, Some Day Soon (5-1); 3, Calleva Star (7-2). 10 ran. 8l, 5l. C Smith. Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £1.80, £1.60. DF: £7.30. Trio: £5.50. CSF: £12.95. Tricast: £30.35.

5.00 (2m 1f 110yd flat) 1, Black Secret (N Williamson, 5-1); 2, Rising Trout (11-2); 3, Our Dawny (9-1). Jungli 11-8 fav. 14 ran. 3l, 2l. C Egerton. Tote: £7.20; £2.60, £1.90, £2.40. DF: £31.10. Trio: £48.00. CSF: £34.08.

Placepot: £11.80.
Quadpot: £2.00.

Southwell
Going: standard

2.10 (7f) 1, Shades Of Love (C Rutter, 5-2 fav); 2, Hever Golf Passion (7-2); 3, Kustom Kit Kate (9-2). 10 ran. 2½l, 1l. V Soane. Tote: £3.60; £1.10, £1.70, £1.80. DF: £9.40. Trio: £7.20. CSF: £11.34. Tricast: £37.35

2.40 (1m) 1, Gold Clipper (P McCabe, 20-1); 2, Al's Fella (5-1); 3, Lancashire Legend (10-1). Benlico 9-4 fav. 11 ran. NR: My Handy Man. Sh hd, 1½l. M Ryan. Tote: £27.40; £4.60, £2.30, £2.50. DF: £77.20. CSF: £117.36. Trio: £268.00.

3.10 (6f) 1, Magic Rainbow (M Fenton, 4-1 jt-fav); 2, Branston Berry (9-1); 3, Blundell Lane (7-1). I'm Tal 4-1 jt-fav. 13 ran. 1¾l, 2¾l. M Bell. Tote: £4.60; £2.10, £3.40, £5.10. DF: £27.50. Trio: £229.80. CSF: £42.60. Tricast: £243.96

3.40 (6f) 1, Silken Dalliance (W Ryan, 4-5 fav); 2, Gold Park (14-1); 3, Ollie's Chuckle (13-2). 11 ran. 1¾l, 2½l. Lord Huntingdon. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £3.40, £1.50. DF: £12.30. Trio: £40.20. CSF: £16.21.

4.10 (7f) 1, Sharp Steel (C Rutter, 12-1); 2, Stately Favour (9-2); 3, Top Floor (16-1). Spring Beacon 4-1 fav. 15 ran. 2l, ¾l. G L Moore. Tote: £17.60; £5.60, £1.10, £5.70. DF: £35.70. Trio: £233.10. CSF: £71.87

4.40 (1m 4f) 1, Rear Window (R Studholme, 16-1); 2, Kierons Bridge (6-1); 3, Operatic (6-1). Carol Again 5-1 fav. 14 ran. 4l, 6l. G McCourt. Tote: £30.80; £8.20, £3.30, £2.80. DF: £289.50. CSF: £113.72. Tricast: £617.54. Trio: £315.50

Placepot: £352.00. Quadpot: £98.30.

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'A stud is always an intensely female place: stout, waddling and gravid, with an atmosphere hippy and bosomy'

Birth, life and death in a world of dreams


HUGH ROUTLEDGE

On a roll: a foal, blissfully unaware of its role as the lowest common denominator of sentimentality, watches its mother enjoy the sunshine at the National Stud

SIMON BARNES Talking horse

Spring. The Cheltenham Festival celebrates the end of winter, but down on the stud, they celebrate the beginning of the season of birth, of growth, of life. They have been celebrating it since January and knackered, flat out, utterly caught up in their world of quotidian miracles, they will go on celebrating it until the end of June.

The Flat season starts next Thursday, and off we go for another round of disaster and joy. These two ingredients are mixed in proportions of approximately twenty to one, but the second does rather go to your head. And as we wait to hear the first cuckoo, so experienced watchers of the Flat are looking out for the spring's first Horse of the Century.

And, damn me, here *was* a Horse of the Century: neck of a bull on him now, and Schwarzenegger shoulders. He was all elegance and grace on the racecourse, but he was but a boy then. Now he is all swagger and shove and the very antithesis of hallo-horsey-have-a-Polo. Not nasty: just a stallion in his pomp.

You tell a gelding, the old horsey saying goes, and you ask a mare. With a stallion, well, you talk things over. This was Celtic Swing, Horse of the Century just three years ago, a very good horse who, in the end, was still a fag-paper away from greatness. All the same, a date with this hard-muscled, head-tossing beast will cost his admirers £6,500 a go.

I was at the National Stud, a 500-acre dream factory hard by the July Course in Newmarket, there to spend 24 hours listening to the rite of spring. Where better place to go in Cheltenham week?

Money and winners. Winners and money. There *is* a theory that this is what Flat racing is all about. Many of the horsey world's legion of *non*-racing people believe it. So do many others. Indeed, many racing people believe it. I have a theory that they are all wrong and that the racing people who believe their game is only about victory are deluding themselves.

To believe that racing is not really about winning is a very serious heresy, I know. But walk from the stallion's line, where the lowering, bull-necked pashas await the next luscious mares that have been procured for them, down to the paddocks, greenswards and post-and-rail fencing, where graze the mares. And foals.

Is there a person in existence who can look at a fortnight-old foal without a lifting and a softening of the heart? If so, this person has had his humanity surgically removed. A foal represents the lowest common denominator of sentimentality. Ridiculous legs. Foals have to buckle at the knees like a drinking giraffe to get a mouthful of grass. Bravely leaving their mother's side for seconds and more at a time: then beginning to socialise. Silly bouncing games, and then the sudden foal's flop of perfect exhaustion, flat on the ground with legs stretching a ridiculous distance from silly little bodies.

Celtic Swing was like that once, and so was Hector Protector and the other seven stallions that stand at the National Stud. Any of the present crop of flopping bundles might be as good or better. But who cares? On a hard, cold, sun-filled morning, a mistle thrush singing behind the field, it is hard to think about anything except now. Here are mares, and here are foals, and that is more than enough.

Racing tries its damnedest to be a tough, ruthless business, but it keeps failing. The trouble is that horses keep getting in the way.

Mares come to the stud to visit a stallion. But mostly, they arrive full of the foal they conceived last year, for the gestation period is 11 months. And so the foals are born at the stud, and shortly after the birth, the mares come into season and meet the stallion of their owner's latest dreams.

So a stud *is not*, after all, a place dominated by the bull-necked swaggerers; not, after all, a shrine to the male principle. A stud is an *intensely female place: stout, waddling and gravid*, an atmosphere hippy and bosomy. Birth dominates the daily processes: copulation, the purpose of the enterprise, almost a sideshow.

Everywhere you look there are pregnant mares and mares and foals. Everywhere, horses growing inside and outside mares. Every night the watchers watch, for mares almost always foal under cover of darkness, an atavistic response to the no-longer-existent threat of predators.

No wolves: only vets and lavish foaling pens and every aid that technology can give them. But this is still a profoundly atavistic business. Mares, fat and round and itching with discomfort, awaiting the final moment. Then the sweating, stamping, brief and terrible drama of birth: I cannot see a pregnant mare without remembering the spring night when I sat with a *seconds-old foal in my lap*, wet, slithering and snorting fluid. My mare, my foal, now a strapping great git (see left) of 17 hands.

That daily impossibility: now there is one, and now there are two. The greatest miracle of all, happening here at the National Stud at a pace that is almost relentless. Tragedy, too, for a foal was killed in an accident. It may not be tragedy to you, but the mare was left overnight with the little corpse to sniff and puzzle over; normally a mare buries a dead foal in the straw. A mare will recover quicker if she is given the opportunity to grieve.

Money and winners, is it? Try putting a price on the gloom that fell over the place when the foal received the death sentence. *Estimate the guilt people feel when they* know there is nothing more they can do and nothing more they could have done. Life happens; so *does death*.

But where there is life there is hope, and where there is hope there are wild and impossible dreams. *That, not victory, is racing's stock-in-trade*. Life: hope: dreams.

Afternoon at the stallion yard. Mare calm, receptive, ready. Stallion in a sudden ecstasy of excitement. The stallion-man holding the entire life-force of the planet on the end of a thin bit of leather, but he was as calm and matter-of-fact as a person could be at this earthy and earth-moving encounter.

A-squealing and a-mounting, the mare ringing like a drum at the amorous clasp of the stallion's forelimbs, vast yellow teeth sinking into her neck, protected by a leather cape from monstrous love-bites. And then it's all done. Good boy. Well done, *darlin'*.

Vet's round in the post-dawn chill. A sickly foal is at least alive and sucking hard. Next, a first-*timer*, a *no-longer-maiden filly*. Enigmatic screen of the scanner. "Yyyyup." What? Where? "There." A pale fleck inside a dark fleck: life. A *spark of life: a foal*. *Another* horse, another miracle, another dream.

I'm right, you know. Winning is part of it. *But winning is not* the reason. It is just the excuse. The real reason is dreaming. All around us, dream creatures moved and worked their daily miracles.

Tote ready to kick off with Sporting Index

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

THE transformation in the image and management of the Tote after the appointment of Peter Jones as chairman was further underlined yesterday when the pool betting organisation announced a new partnership with Sporting Index, the spread betting specialists.

Tote Sporting Index, as the new service will be known, will start operating next week in good time for the World Cup — which is likely to be the biggest betting event this summer.

The Tote has 80,000 account holders, making it the largest credit bookmaker in the world. All Tote Credit Club members will be invited to open an account with the new partnership so they can enjoy the benefits of betting accounts with both organisations. Tote Sporting Index's prices will be on display in Tote Credit's racecourse betting offices.

Jones said: "Spread betting is an important area within the betting market, particularly among our high staking customers. In conjunction with the strengths of Tote Credit Club's pool and fixed odds betting service, we wanted to offer out clients the benefit of spread betting. This arrangement with Sporting Index allows the Tote to offer the best levels of service in every sector of the betting market."

The link-up is particularly important for Sporting Index, which has been looking at a variety of ways to maintain the growth rate in its business, including diversifying into City and financial markets.

Compton Hellyer, chairman of Sporting Index, said: "This partnership brings together the leading credit betting organisation with the market leader in the industry's newest sector.

"Tote Sporting Index will be the first spread betting service to display its prices on racecourses. The World Cup this summer will see sports spread betting reach new heights of popularity and we are delighted to be working with the Tote in bringing the thrill of a spread bet to more people."

Adrian Maguire could be back for the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown on April 25. Fears that the jockey would be sidelined for the rest of the season were dispelled yesterday as the injuries he suffered in a fall from Zabadi at Cheltenham on Thursday are not as bad as feared. Robert Parsons, his agent, said: "Adrian has broken his collarbone and suffered concussion, but everything else is clear. He has a mandatory 21 days out of action because of concussion, but could return for the Whitbread."

Barber frustrated by firm ground

Point-to-point by Carl Evans

BUDDING Earthmovers are lurking behind some stable doors at Richard Barber's Dorset yard, but they will not be seen in action this weekend. "Where can I run good young horses when the ground is so firm?" Barber asked, having saddled a record fourth winner of the Foxhunter at Cheltenham on Thursday.

Another drying day yesterday did not help his cause and Barber therefore runs just a few top-of-the ground horses this weekend. Crampscastle and Sweeney Lee at the **New Forest Buckhounds** meeting and Captain Navar at the **Quantock** fixture. Tim Mitchell hopes a mad dash will enable him to ride all three horses.

Joe Tizzard, who rode Earthmover, will also be in action at the Somerset track, where he could partner Venn Boy or Qualitair Memory in the men's open for his father, Colin.

This sport is *not short* of hands-on organisers, and John Sharp, the chairman of the Owners and Riders' Association, partners the talented Cormeen Lord at the **Cambridgeshire** today. Sharp can forgive the horse a poor seasonal debut, saying: "We've had coughing in the yard and I don't like running horses unless they are really fit. But I took him to Southwell because the ground and the track suited him. We hoped his talent would overcome the lack of fitness but it didn't and he blew for 35 minutes after the race." Expect a fitter Cormeen Lord today.

Dido Harding, owner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Cool Dawn, has wisely decided not to ride Cardinal Gayle at tomorrow's **Hampshire** meeting. "I think we've had enough excitement for one week," she said.

However, star quality will not be lacking when mighty Slievenamon Mist steps out onto the Hackwood Park track, in a warm-up for Aintree's "Foxhunters" Chase. Holding this meeting six weeks earlier than normal, on reasonable ground, has certainly paid off.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: *Cambs* at Horseheath, 4m W of Haverhill (first race 1.00); Cheshire, Alpraham, 3m SE of Tarporley (1.00); Clifton-on-Teme, Upper Sapey, 5m N of Bromyard (1.30); Curre, Howick, 2m W of Chepstow (12.00); Duke of Buccleuch's, Friars Haugh, W of Kelso (1.00); Hurworth, Hutton Rudby, 4m W of Stokesley (12.30); New Forest Buck, Larkhill, 4m N of Amesbury (12.30); Quantock, Cothelstone, 2m N of Bishops Lydeard (1.30); S Cornwall, Gt Trethew, 3m SE of Liskeard (12.00). TOMORROW: Dart Vale & Haldon, Buckfastleigh, just off A38 (1.00); Hampshire, Hackwood Pk, 2m S of Basingstoke (2.00); Meynell & S Staffs at Sandon, 4m S of Stone (1.00); S Herefords, Garnons, 7m W of Hereford (1.30); S Wold at Brocklesby Pk, 10m W of Grimsby (2.00); Southdown & Eridge, Heathfield, 1m E of town (2.00).

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Southwell (AW, first race, 2.15), Newcastle (2.00).
TUESDAY: Chepstow (2.00), Fontwell Park (2.10), Uttoxeter (2.20).
WEDNESDAY: Exeter (2.20), Ludlow (2.00), Towcester (2.10).
THURSDAY: Doncaster (C4, 1.30), Plumpton (2.25), Wincanton (2.15).
FRIDAY: Doncaster (C4, 1.30), Kelso (1.40), Newbury (1.50).
SATURDAY: Doncaster (C4, 2.00), Bangor (1.50), Newbury (BBC, 2.00), Warwick (mixed meeting, 2.05), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00).
Flat meetings in bold

HEREFORD

THUNDERER
2.10 Cento. 2.45 Ashwell Boy. 3.15 Darakshan. 3.50 Music Please. 4.20 Force Divine. 4.50 Viridian. 5.20 Irish Delight.
Carl Evans: 4.50 Buzz O'The Crowd.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS

2.10 BONUSFILM NOVICES HURDLE (£2,584: 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners)
1 0-0F ANOTHER RUMPUS 26 C Morlock 6-11-2 — J A McCarthy
2 0 BOXING CLEVER 115 K Comerford 7-11-2 — Gary Lyons
3 4004 BROWN MELODY 16 Miss C Johnsey 5-11-2 — G Hogan
4 3-44 CENTO 146 Mrs S Williams 5-11-2 — R Dunwoody
5 03FP FOLDING 81 Mrs A Barclay 7-11-2 — L Sutham (7)
6 40-0 FRANKIE MUCK 16 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-2 — J Goldstein (7)
7 5004 JOVIAN POND 52 H Haynes 6-11-2 — Guy Lewis (3)
8 0P NUNS TOY BOY 85 J Bradley 6-11-2 — T Dascombe
9 0550 PORLOCK CASTLE 38 P Rodford 5-11-2 — S Fox
10 000 ADVENTURE PRINCESS 82 G Barnett 5-10-11 — Mr K R O'Ryan (7)
11 AMERICAN PIE Miss V Williams 8-10-11 — S Kelly (7)
12 0-22 CHAMPAGNE FRIEND 9 (BF) O O'Neill 7-10-11 — V Slattery
13 8-P0 MISS MOUSE 16 K Comerford 6-10-11 — M Foster
14 P/ NEARLY AMADOOBALEE 714P D Wintle 9-10-11 — M Keighley (7)
15 21F3 STONED IMACULATE 140 (F) F Murphy 4-10-10 — Mr O McPhail (5)
16 CHINGACHGOOK 23F H Webb 4-10-8 — D J Moffatt
15-8 Champagne Friend, 3-1 Cento, 11-2 American Pie, 8-1 Stoned Imaculate, 12-1 Jovian Pond, 14-1 Porlock Castle, 16-1 Brown Melody, 20-1 others.

2.45 TRIPLEPRINT NOVICES CHASE (£3,156: 2m) (10)
1 F334 ASHWELL BOY 28 (D,F,G,S) P Hobbs 7-12-0 — R Dunwoody
2 0450 ALDINGTON CHAPPLE 38 (D,F,G) T Wall 10-11-2 — J Mogford (7)
3 -140 BLOWING ROCK 38 (D,F) Miss H Knight 6-11-2 — Mr O McPhail (5)
4 823 CABILLE 14 Mrs L Taylor 6-11-2 — G Upton
5 6PP3 CROCKNAMOHILL 18 K Bridgwater 7-11-2 — R Massey (3)
6 4023 FLORID 37 (D,G) C Brooks 7-11-2 — M Berry (5)
7 -0B4 MR POPPLETON 18 R Brotherton 9-11-2 — S Curran
8 /00- RAFTER-J 327F T Bill 7-11-2 — Gary Lyons
9 £534 SMOLENSK 35 (D,F) J Berry 6-11-2 — S Kelly (7)
10 F-23 CHARMING GIRL 89 (BF,D,G) O Sherwood 7-10-11 — J A McCarthy
8-11 Ashwell Boy, 7-2 Charming Girl, 7-1 Florid, 12-1 Blowing Rock, 14-1 Cabille, 16-1 Smolensk, 25-1 Mr Poppleton, 50-1 others.

3.15 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,982: 2m 3f 110yd) (7)
1 -502 DARAKSHAN 26 (F,G,S) Miss H Knight 6-11-10 — R Dunwoody
2 2100 GUTTERIDGE 2 (C,G,S) P Evans 8-11-9 — R Hughes
3 046R EXALTED 16 (C,F) W Jenks 5-11-0 — J A McCarthy
4 -662 RICH LIFE 11 (F,G,S) R Baker 8-10-13 — V Slattery
5 -214 DARU 14 (BF,S) R Hollinshead 9-10-4 — Gary Lyons
6 P114 WALTER'S DESTINY 9 (D,G) C Mitchell 6-10-2 — S McNeill
7 4584 MEG'S MEMORY 24 (V,S) A Streeter 5-10-0 — T Eley
15-8 Daru, 7-2 Darakshan, 5-1 Gutteridge, 11-2 Walter's Destiny, 7-1 Rich Life, 8-1 Meg's Memory, 33-1 Exalted.

3.50 DOUBLEPRINT HANDICAP CHASE (£3,765: 2m) (6)
1 -611 MUSIC PLEASE 33 (CD,G,S) Miss V Williams 6-11-13 — S Kelly (7)
2 0632 WHO'S TO SAY 14 (D,F,G,S) Dr P Pritchard 12-11-2 — Dr P Pritchard
3 -542 SHREWD JOHN 5 (D,F,G,S) Mrs D Thomas 12-10-12 — Guy Lewis (3)
4 15-F LUCKY EDDIE 18 (D,G) P Hobbs 7-10-11 — R Dunwoody
5 2P0R TANGO'S DELIGHT 40 (G) R Baker 10-10-0 — V Slattery
6 84FP DAWN CHANCE 26 (B,CD,F,S) R Haynes 12-10-0 — Mr O McPhail (5)
7-4 Who's To Say, 2-1 Music Please, 4-1 Shrewd John, 8-1 Lucky Eddie, 14-1 Tango's Delight, 16-1 Dawn Chance.

4.20 BONUSPHOTO NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£1,884: 2m 1f) (16)
1 2/10 LITTLE SERENA 10 (C,G) J Harman 8-11-1 — D J Burchell
2 0 BEAUD SCRIPT 128 Mrs S Williams 5-11-0 — Sophie Mitchell (3)
3 4/30 PRINTEMPS 8 M Wilkinson 11-11-0 — D Painter (7)
4 -0P0 SPENCER STALLONE 28 Graeme Roe 5-11-0 — S Graham (7)
5 204- TAP SHOES 350 R Baker 8-11-0 — G Sheilde (7)
6 08-8 TORO LOCO 69P Miss J Wormall 6-11-0 — Gary Lyons
7 0-F VENICE BEACH 5 R Simpson 6-11-0 — J Goldstein (7)
8 4000 MELODY PRINCESS 16 O O'Neill 5-10-9 — V Slattery
9 -00P TAFZALETTE 9 P Wegmann 6-10-9 — S Curran
10 3 DON'T WORRY MIKE 66F J Spearing 4-10-6 — R Dunwoody
11 08FP SHADED 19 P Rodford 4-10-6 — S Burrough
12 0 SUBAROO SAM 25 J Bradley 4-10-6 — T Dascombe
13 000 TIMOTHY GEORGE 9 G Balding 4-10-6 — B Fenton
14 0 COCHITI 23 P Hiatt 4-10-1 — E Husband (3)
15 0 FORCE DIVINE 9 (B) M Pipe 4-10-1 — M Foster
16 PU TYROLEAN DANCER 28F A Chamberlain 4-10-1 — C Webb (3)
5-2 Printemps, 7-2 Little Serena, 11-2 Tap Shoes, 6-1 Don't Worry Mike, 8-1 Shaded, 10-1 Force Divine, 14-1 Melody Princess, 20-1 others.

4.50 CHARLIE KNIPE HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,590: 3m 1f 110yd) (8)
1 1-13 BUZZ O'THE CROWD 16 (BF,CD,G,S) Miss A Handel 11-12-7 — Mr D McPhail (5)
2 -313 MIGHTY FALCON 15 (D,F,G,S) Mrs H Tory 13-12-4 — Miss E Tory (7)
3 11-4 VIRIDIAN 7P (D,F,G,S) D Duggan 13-12-4 — Mr M FitzGerald (7)
4 /1-U BIT OF AN IDIOT 5 (G) C Morlock 10-12-0 — Mr M Armytage
5 -P32 CANISTER CASTLE 6P (F) J E Price 10-12-0 — Mr K R O'Ryan (7)
6 3-42 HIGH PADRE 33 (D,F,G,S) Mrs P Chamings 12-12-0 — Mr M Portman (7)
7 4P-F STRONG TRACE 27P (B,S) F Mathews 9-12-0 — Mr S J Graham (7)
8 PPU2 THE RUM MARINER 7P (F,G,S) Mrs J Skelton 11-12-0 — Mr J Jukes (5)
2-1 Viridian, 5-2 Buzz O'The Crowd, 5-1 High Padre, 6-1 Bit Of An Idiot, 8-1 The Rum Mariner, 10-1 Mighty Falcon, 33-1 Canister Castle, Strong Trace.

5.20 DOUBLEPRINT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,626: 3m 2f) (17)
1 1343 LAUREN'S TREASURE 16 (F) Mrs S Williams 7-11-10 — B Fenton
2 123P SAUCY NUN 14 (F,G) P Hiatt 6-10-11 — E Husband (3)
3 2405 YOUNG TYCOON 15 A J Wilson 7-10-7 — G Hogan
4 5-45 MISS SECRET 102 C Mitchell 8-10-4 — S McNeill
5 2432 QUIET MOMENTS 9 (V,BF) P Murphy 5-10-1 — J Goldstein (7)
6 360P DANZANTE 30 (F) R Strange 6-10-1 — S Kelly (7)
7 36/0 CLUBS ARE TRUMPS 10 (V) P Rich 7-10-0 — M Griffiths (7)
8 6046 PROLIFIC AGENCY 53 F Murphy 5-10-0 — Mr O McPhail (5)
9 0400 HYDEMILLA 14 Mrs T Pilkington 8-10-0 — V Slattery
10 P000 BELLDORAN 9 T Greathead 7-10-0 — G Upton
11 50-6 IRISH DELIGHT 14 R Curtis 6-10-0 — J Leech
12 P-0P THE CHEESE BARON 58 S Mellor 7-10-0 — C Webb (3)
13 000 RHYTHM AND BOOZE 7 J Tuck 8-10-0 — W Marston
14 FU/P SEA SCAMP 100 (G) D Minty 10-10-0 — Guy Lewis (3)
15 0405 THE GADFLY 52 C Jones 6-10-0 — S Curran
16 08P0 MILLY LE MOSS 11 M Sheppard 9-10-0 — R Massey (3)
17 /14- CWM BYE 345P (F) Mrs A Price 7-10-0 — J Mogford (7)
5-2 Quiet Moments, 6-1 Lauren's Treasure, Miss Secret, 7-1 Saucy Nun, 8-1 Young Tycoon, Danzante, 10-1 Prolific Agency, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss V Williams, 7 winners from 14 runners, 50.0%; F Murphy, 5 from 12, 41.7%; M Pipe, 31 from 91, 34.1%; P Evans, 3 from 11, 27.3%; N Twiston-Davies, 24 from 97, 24.7%; P Hobbs, 13 from 59, 22.0%.

JOCKEYS: B Fenton, 7 winners from 28 rides, 25.0%; R Dunwoody, 9 from 40, 22.5%; R Farrant, 7 from 47, 14.9%; S Curran, 4 from 31, 12.9%; G Upton, 4 from 31, 12.9%; D J Burchell, 5 from 43, 11.6%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Hereford: 4.20 Force Divine. 4.50 Strong Trace. 5.20 Quiet Moments, Clubs Are Trumps. Lingfield Park: 2.40 Challenger Row, Steamburd. 4.40 Mike's Music, Scobie Girl. Uttoxeter: 2.20 Top Javelin. Wolverhampton: 7.30 Zermatt. 8.30 Blatant Outburst.

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER
2.00 Wynyard Knight. 2.30 Westwell Boy. 3.05 Arctic Sandy. *3.35 Dawn Mission. 4.05 Mr Tees Components.* 4.35 Singing Sand.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) — SIS

2.00 WELCOME TO GOSFORTH PARK NOVICES HURDLE (£2,516: 2m) (20 runners)
1 000 BIROTEX BOY 10 C Grant 5-11-2 — J Callaghan
2 0 CAP IN HAND 39 Mrs S Smith 6-11-2 — G F Ryan (5)
3 4-5 FOREST BOY 22 M R Bosley 5-11-2 — L Harvey
4 3-5 GALESHAN 91 G Richards 6-11-2 — B Harding
5 2245 J J BABOO 15 M Hammond 5-11-2 — R Garritty
6 0-56 KIMDALOO 8 C Parker 6-11-2 — B Storey
7 000 LUCKY MOVE 24 S Kettlewell 5-11-2 — N Bentley
8 MAURANGI 124F B Murray 7-11-2 — R McGrath (3)
9 55 PESSIMISTIC DICK 44 Mrs D Thomson 5-11-2 — N Horrocks (5)
10 REVERSE CHARGE 407F G A Harker 6-11-2 — F Leahy (3)
11 0 ROYAL DEW 15 J Hanson 5-11-2 — E Callaghan
12 603 SETTING SUN 19 N Waggott 5-11-2 — A S Smith
13 0P STORM VALLEY 10 Mrs S Bramall (Ire) 6-11-2 — Mr J Cullen (7)
14 06 TALE BRIDGE 18 T Easterby 5-11-2 — L Wyer
15 -134 WYNYARD KNIGHT 28 (BF,D,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-2 — P Niven
16 ZAIN DANCER 68F M Hammond 6-11-2 — A Ede (7)
17 66-0 ATLANTIC SUNRISE 101 R McDonald 6-10-11 — J Supple
18 DISPOL GEM 135F A Dickin 5-10-11 — D Parker
19 053F HELM WIND 8 M Barnes 5-10-11 — S Taylor (3)
20 ALARMIST 171F G Richards 4-10-8 — M Moloney
2-1 Wynyard Knight, 7-1 Setting Sun, 8-1 J J Baboo, 10-1 Forest Boy, 12-1 Galeshan, Reverse Charge, Helm Wind, Alarmist, 16-1 others.

2.30 JAMES FLETCHER MARQUEES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,474: 3m) (5) SKY
1 -353 KENMORE-SPEED 86 (F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 11-11-10 — R Guest
2 36U4 VALIANT WARRIOR 22 (C,F,G,S) M Hammond 10-11-10 — R Garritty
3 -FP1 ALY DALEY 19 (CD,F,G,S) J Howard Johnson 10-11-3 — E Callaghan
4 2345 WAYUPHILL 21 (F,S) C Parker 11-11-2 — B Storey
5 3-02 WESTWELL BOY 19 (D,F,G) P Beaumont 12-11-2 — B Grattan (5)
7-4 Westwell Boy, 2-1 Aly Daley, 9-2 Kenmore-Speed, Wayuphill, 12-1 Valiant Warrior.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 41 winners from 170 runners, 24.1%; S *Kettlewell*, 3 from 13, 23.1%; G *Richards*, 15 from 67, 22.4%; J Fitzgerald, 10 from 52, 19.2%; C Parker, 6 from 38, 15.8%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 42 winners from 134 rides, 31.3%; R Garritty, 14 from 89, 15.7%; D Parker, 5 from 38, 13.2%; B Harding, 6 from 49, 12.2%; L Wyer, 9 from 78, 11.5%; B Storey, 14 from 139, 10.1%.

3.05 NORTHUMBERLAND NOVICES CHASE (£2,814: 2m 4f) (10) SKY
1 -12F ARCTIC SANDY 49 (F,S) J Oliver 8-11-8 — B Storey
2 15-2 BOBBY GRANT 42 (D,G,S) C Grant 7-11-2 — P Niven
3 P-4F CLAVERING 10 J Howard Johnson 8-11-2 — K Johnson
4 0P-0 *ETAT MAJOR 82 Mrs S Bramall (Ire) 6-11-2 — Mr J Cullen (7)*
5 P5F2 FLAT TOP 10 (S) M W Easterby 7-11-2 — L Wyer
6 0-RP GO FOR THE DOCTOR 18 B McMahon 8-11-2 — E Callaghan
7 4453 HOPEFUL LORD 19 (D,F) P Cheesbrough 6-11-2 — A S Smith
8 66 LEET BRIG 35 B Mactaggart 7-11-2 — B Harding
9 /3F0 OUT BY NIGHT 11 G M Moore 7-11-2 — N Bentley
10 5653 TRIONA'S HOPE 4 E Caine 9-11-2 — M H Naughton (5)
5-2 Bobby Grant, 7-2 Arctic Sandy, 4-1 Clavering, 6-1 Hopeful Lord, 7-1 Flat Top, 14-1 Etat Major, Out By Night, 20-1 others.

3.35 ST MODWEN PROPERTIES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,998: 3m) (3)
1 3234 LINLATHEN 19 (BF,D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-10 — P Niven
2 FP01 DAWN MISSION 8 (B,F,G,S) T Easterby 6-11-3 — L Wyer
3 3441 INVEST WISELY 19 (CD,F) M Hammond 6-11-2 — R Garritty
10-11 Linlathen, 15-8 Invest Wisely, 7-2 Dawn Mission.

4.05 RAMSIDE EVENT CATERING NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,035: 2m 4f) (12) SKY
1 4110 MIKE STAN 39 (BF,D,G,S) L Lungo 7-11-10 — W Dowling (7)
2 16P1 JENNIE'S PROSPECT 36 (D,F,S) J J O'Neill 7-10-13 — R McGrath (3)
3 6020 MR TEES COMPONENTS 22 Mrs M Reveley 6-10-8 — P Niven
4 2004 ROMAN OUTLAW 28 M Hammond 6-10-5 — D Bentley
5 3P03 SWYNFORD PRIDE 29 (F) J Hetherton 6-10-2 — F Leahy (3)
6 6005 SOUTHERN CROSS 18 (B,S) M W Easterby 6-10-1 — B Harding
7 2335 YOUNG STEVEN 31 Mrs S Bradburne 7-10-0 — S Taylor (3)
8 0000 *PARTING THE WAVES 50 T Easterby 6-10-0 — L Wyer*
9 -5P0 WOODFIELD VISION 50 Mrs M Reveley 7-10-0 — N Smith
10 /PPP CURRENT MONY 77 M Hammond 7-10-0 — N Horrocks (5)
11 340P NORDISK LEGEND 103 Mrs D Thomson 6-10-0 — B Storey
12 0-00 BONNY RIGG 105 L Lungo 6-10-0 — C Dunne (7)
5-2 Mike Stan, 4-1 Jennie's Prospect, 5-1 Roman Outlaw, 7-1 Swynford Pride, 8-1 Mr Tees Components, 10-1 Southern Cross, Young Steven, 12-1 others.

4.35 NORTHERN RACING HANDICAP CHASE (£2,710: 2m 110yd) (7)
1 -252 CROSSHOT 7 (CD,F,G,S) R McDonald 11-12-0 — J Supple
2 1512 MARBLE MAN 14 (D,F,S) M Pell 8-11-12 — D Bentley
3 23P3 SINGING SAND 7 (BF,D,S) P Monteith 8-11-12 — A S Smith
4 2P31 PRINCE OF SAINTS 18 (D,G,S) M Hammond 7-11-7 — R Garritty
5 PF65 OAKLEY 44 (D,F,G) D Smith 9-10-13 — P Niven
6 4512 KILDRUMMY CASTLE 18 (D,F,G) J FitzGerald 6-10-3 — F Leahy (3)
7 3243 MOSS PAGEANT 18 (G) F Walton 8-10-0 — B Storey
2-1 Prince Of Saints, 4-1 Crosshot, 9-2 Marble Man, 5-1 Kildrummy Castle, 6-1 Singing Sand, 10-1 Moss Pageant, 25-1 Oakley.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
7.00 Final Glory. 7.30 Big Bang. 8.00 Comeoutofthefog. 8.30 Petoskin. 9.00 Bold Aristocrat. 9.30 Eurobox Boy.

GOING: STANDARD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

7.00 BLARNEY STONE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (£2,336: 1m 1f 79yd) (6 runners)
1 000- BANNERET 144 G Woodward 5-9-10 — L Newton 6
2 6- FINAL GLORY 109 Lord Huntingdon 4-9-5 — Dean McKeown 3
3 0-3 IMPERIAL PRINCE 17 K McAuliffe 3-8-5 — J F Egan 5
4 -324 NAKED OAT 7 (BF) B Smart 3-8-5 — J Stack 4
5 LOVEDAY S C Williams 3-8-0 — J Quinn 2
6 SWEET SERENATA S C Williams 3-8-0 — D Williams (7) 1
5-4 Naked Oat, 5-2 Imperial Prince, 3-1 Final Glory, 14-1 Loveday, 16-1 Sweet Serenata, 33-1 Banneret.

7.30 LEPRECHAUN STAKES (£2,253: 1m 4f) (7)
1 4524 ZERMATT 23 (V,F,S) M Usher 8-9-4 — M Rimmer 6
2 3225 EVEZIO RUFO 12 (B,D,S) N Littmoden 6-9-2 — A McCarthy (5) 7
3 4350 BIG BANG 12 (B,C,D) M Blanshard 4-9-0 — J Quinn 3
4 4003 HEAD GARDENER 4 (B) N Littmoden 4-8-9 — A Daly (3) 1
5 0303 PRIX DE CLERMONT 10 (B,CD) G Lewis 4-8-8 — D Denby (7) 5
6 4231 SHANGHAI LIL 25 (C) M Fetherston-Godley 6-8-5 — D Holland 2
7 5540 SIDNEY THE KIDNEY 10 M Ryan 4-8-1 — Nicola Howarth 4
2-1 Shanghai Lil, 4-1 Prix de Clermont, 11-2 Evezio Rufo, Head Gardener, 13-2 Zermatt, 7-1 Big Bang, 16-1 Sidney The Kidney.

8.00 ST PATRICK HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,623: 7f) (6)
1 60-1 DARWELL'S FOLLY 45 (C,F) M Johnston 9-7 — D Holland 6
2 4211 COMEOUTOFTHEFOG 21 (D) Mrs A King 8-10 — J Fortune 1
3 1161 SHE'S A GEM 10 (CD) Mrs N Macauley 8-8 — P McCabe (3) 5
4 -520 HEAVENLY ABSTONE 28 (V,F,S) P Evans 8-6 — J F Egan 3
5 0-35 COLONEL CUSTER 25 C Thornton 8-3 — Dean McKeown 2
6 4210 NUIT D'OR 14 (B,C) N Littmoden 8-0 — A McCarthy (5) 4
11-4 Darwell's Folly, 4-1 Comeoutofthefog, She's A Gem, 9-2 Nuit D'Or, 11-2 Colonel Custer, 13-2 Heavenly Abstone.

8.30 STORMONT LIMITED STAKES (£2,576: 2m 46yd) (4)
1 1040 PETOSKIN 7 (CD,F,S) J Pearce 6-9-5 — G Bardwell 4
2 500- BLATANT OUTBURST 134J (V) Miss S Wilton 8-9-2 — A McCarthy (5) 1
3 -003 CARROLLS MARC 4 (C,D,F,G) Pat Mitchell 10-9-2 — M Fenton 3
4 00/0 LASER LIGHT LADY 28 M Wanning 6-8-13 — A Clark 2
8-11 Petoskin, 11-4 Carrolls Marc, 7-2 Blatant Outburst, 33-1 Laser Light Lady.

9.00 SHAMROCK SELLING STAKES (£1,738: 6f) (9)
1 1411 BOLD ARISTOCRAT 10 (D) R Hollinshead 7-9-11 — F Lynch 9
2 0-24 ASTRAL INVADER 19 (BF,D,F,S) M Saunders 6-9-6 — R Price 2
3 2043 AXEMAN 17 (D,F) N Littmoden 6-9-6 — A Daly (3) 6
4 00-2 BLUSHING GRENADIER 25 (V,D,F,G) M F-Godley 6-9-6 — D Holland 3
5 -100 MAYDORO 50 (CD) M Dods 5-9-6 — A Clark 1
6 6000 MULLAGH HILL LAD 2 (B,C) N Littmoden 5-9-6 — A McCarthy (5) 5
7 0000 WILD CITY 4 R Marvin 4-9-6 — G Bardwell 4
8 -006 MARGARETROSE ANNA 10 B Baugh 6-9-1 — D Wright 8
9 060- TUI 218 P Bowen 3-8-2 — M Fenton 7
5-4 Bold Aristocrat, 9-2 Blushing Grenadier, 6-1 Astral Invader, 7-1 Axeman, 10-1 Maydoro, 12-1 Tui, 16-1 Mullagh Hill Lad, 20-1 others.

9.30 EMERALD ISLE HANDICAP (£2,588: 1m 1f 79yd) (8)
1 1104 FAILED TO HIT 2 (B,C,F) N Littmoden 5-9-10 — D Holland 6
2 -022 AMICO 18 (BF) C Thornton 4-9-9 — Dean McKeown 7
3 620- LAW DANCER 171 (CD) T Mills 5-9-8 — Lisa Hackett (7) 4
4 6433 EUROBOX BOY 14 (F,G) A Jarvis 5-9-3 — A McCarthy (5) 5
5 005- NICKER 199 M Waring 4-9-0 — A Clark 3
6 4402 THOUGHTFUL KATE 25 B Palling 4-8-10 — C Lowther (3) 1
7 06-6 FORMIDABLE FLAME 14 W Musson 5-8-7 — J Quinn 8
8 -000 YOUNG BENSON 17 (B,C,F) T Wall 6-8-5 — G Bardwell 2
3-1 Eurobox Boy, 7-2 Amico, Thoughtful Kate, 4-1 Failed To Hit, 13-2 Formidable Flame, 14-1 Law Dancer, 16-1 Nicker, 33-1 Young Benson.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Lord Huntingdon, 23 winners from 97 runners, 23.7%; M *Johnston*, 57 from 260, 21.9%; J Pearce, 14 from 77, 18.2%; B Smart, 6 from 40, 15.0%; G Lewis, 9 from 61, 14.8%.

JOCKEYS: D Holland, 28 winners from 142 rides, 19.7%; J Egan, 15 from 100, 15.0%; C Lowther, 11 from 80, 13.8%; M Rimmer, 6 from 44, 13.6%; A McCarthy, 10 from 81, 12.3%.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD 0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
10 Safeguard	143.04	150.91	-0.19	
Do NAV to Mar 20	140.18	140.18	+5.62	
LSP Equity Safeguard	112.87	120.70	-0.02	2.47
Do NAV to Mar 20	110.61	110.61	-104.74	
US Eqy Safeguard	#	#		
Cash	956.39	981.17	+1.00	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	428.40	455.80	+17.90	1.47
UK Small Cos	92.61	99.03	+4.28	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	113.54	121.42	+3.95	2.11
Geared UK Index	2902.33	3063.90	+169.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	84.18	87.25	+0.10	6.03
Monthly Inc	46.00	49.23	+1.50	8.72
International Funds				
American Gen	329.90	349.90	+6.60	
American Strat	243.94	260.88	+1.63	
JC US Index	2602.25	2741.84	+53.00	4.00
European Gen	383.00	405.20	+6.30	0.69
European Strat	163.40	174.75	-3.34	
Japan Gen	98.97	104.90	-0.40	
Asia Pacific	66.82	71.32	+1.60	1.08
Pacific Strat	104.41	111.66	-0.29	
Greater China	207.00	221.38	+9.63	
Latin America	106.37	113.69	+2.37	..
Int Growth	180.16	192.69	+2.70	
Balanced Exempt	175.60	182.00	+0.60	1.78
Global Strategy	49.09	52.49	+1.41	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	980.50	1043.00	+38.00	2.19
General Inc	795.20	845.90	+31.10	2.19
UK Growth Acc	673.70	716.60	+26.50	2.17
UK Growth Inc	425.80	452.90	+16.70	2.17
Higher Inc Acc #	1263.00	1350.00	+65.00	4.05
Higher Inc Inc #	651.60	693.10	+33.30	4.05
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	238.60	252.00	+0.70	5.60
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	96.97	102.40	+0.30	5.60
N. America	472.60	502.70	+5.20	
Europe	548.20	574.60	+17.80	0.49
Emf Exc	134.20	142.70	+5.30	2.03
Emf Fndmts Acc	168.10	178.60	+7.30	1.95
Emf Fndmts Inc	106.40	113.10	+4.60	1.95
Global Opps	131.80	140.20	+5.50	0.22
Balanced Acc	82.11	87.35	+2.58	2.11
Balanced Inc	75.13	79.92	+2.35	2.11
Japan Acc	32.70	34.78	-0.35	
Pac Basin Acc	304.90	324.30	+11.20	2.06
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	145.80	154.70	+0.10	5.78
High Inc Equity	251.20	268.70	+9.00	3.75
Worldwide Bond	269.10	285.40	-1.00	3.51
American Growth	587.90	627.70	+6.00	0.20
Asian Pacific	236.60	253.00	+10.80	0.49
Assets & Earnings	403.00	431.00	-14.20	2.37
Euro Capital Acc	279.90	299.40	+2.40	0.67
Extra Inc	44.18	47.00	+0.61	8.85
General	367.90	391.40	+14.00	2.51
Global Opps	84.40	89.79	+1.46	0.36
Japan	76.30	81.60	-1.82	
Managed Inc	56.32	59.91	+1.02	4.26
Mastertrust	206.30	220.60	+4.10	1.01
US Emerging Cos	244.20	261.20	+5.60	
Ethical	105.60	112.30	+3.30	1.63
International	155.50	165.40	+2.10	0.58
Dividend & Growth	92.54	98.45	+3.52	3.49
Global Gwth & Sec	79.83	85.44	+0.53	2.36
Latin America	78.63	83.65	+1.07	0.80
Capital Reserve	155.30	155.40		4.50
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0147 275 8500				
I&P UK Growth	131.70	140.10	+4.50	1.46
Equity Income #	182.40	194.00	+6.70	3.31
Extra Income #	333.60	354.80	+9.50	4.30
Smaller Cos	110.20	117.20	+2.70	1.71
International	146.20	155.50	+3.30	0.75
ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD Enq: 0345 686 686 Dlg: 0800 833 580				
Amer Opp Acc	412.47	434.44	+8.32	
Emg Mkts Inc	62.50	66.13	+1.31	
Ethical Inc	98.74	104.47	+4.40	0.33
Euro Gwth Acc	136.21	143.75	+2.33	
Euro Spec Opps Acc	144.04	152.41	+5.44	
Extra Inc Inc	251.16	265.07	-6.81	3.72
Extra Inc Acc	345.50	364.73	+11.05	3.72
FE Emg Econ	83.31	88.16	+2.62	0.86
Fixed Int Inc #	29.77	31.25	+0.26	7.60
Frontier Mk Inc	77.72	82.23	+0.34	0.07
Fund Of Inv Inc #	218.59	231.30	+4.79	7.72
Fund Of Inv Acc	463.07	490.01	+10.14	7.72
Gilt Inc #	50.83	52.98	+0.07	6.68
Global Bond Inc	41.00	42.80	-0.07	4.64
Global Inc Inc	33.45	35.21	+0.39	4.28
Global Inc Acc	51.41	54.11	+0.60	4.28
High Inc Inc	190.75	201.86	+6.23	3.40
High Inc Acc	253.17	267.92	+8.28	3.40
Japan Inc	139.05	147.12	-3.50	
Latin Amer Inc	69.25	73.28	+1.36	0.01
Master Inc Inc	68.71	72.70	+1.68	2.36
Master Gwth Acc	63.10	66.76	+1.24	0.25
North Amer Inc	284.95	299.77	+3.46	
North Amer Acc	285.29	300.13	+3.47	
Pacific Inc	58.92	62.34	+0.53	0.12
Prop Share Inc	100.78	106.65	-0.09	1.08
Recovery Inc	119.58	126.52	+3.78	1.36
Recovery Acc	135.91	143.82	+4.29	1.36
Special Sit Inc	191.53	202.68	+6.31	0.87
Special Sit Acc	216.92	229.56	+7.16	0.87
Tech Inc	865.26	910.59	+20.72	
Tech Acc	866.26	910.59	+30.72	
UK Blue Chip Inc	129.51	136.67	+5.29	2.33
UK Blue Chip Acc	155.90	164.53	+6.37	2.33
UK Emg Co Inc	88.64	93.86	+2.04	0.39
UK Gwth Inc	79.47	83.64	+1.45	1.01
World Port Inc #	99.99	105.81	+1.81	2.01
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2692.00	2810.00	+59.00	
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0171 256 5868				
Postal Property #	109.30	116.20	+0.60	5.50
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD 01452 305 958				
Amity Income	117.73	124.91	+3.15	1.59
Income Builder Inc	108.88	115.83	+3.79	2.84
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01293 526 911				
Cntrctd Out Pens	152.80	158.70	+0.80	
Foundtn Persl Pens	89.49	92.97	+0.58	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD 0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	492.60	522.90	+6.80	
Bond	125.40	131.80	+0.10	6.43
Brit Smlr Cos	119.90	127.50	+1.90	1.90
Europe	417.40	443.00	+12.20	
Euro Smlr Cos	141.70	150.80	+4.50	0.20
High Income #	76.33	81.20	+2.86	5.39
Income	464.50	494.10	+14.40	3.57
Japan	259.20	275.20	-7.60	
Latin American	109.30	116.30	+0.50	
Pacific	81.97	87.20	+2.66	1.20
UK Smlr Cos	70.54	75.04	+2.23	1.26
Japanese Sm Cos	451.50	465.90	-10.60	
Mngd Fd	271.30	287.90	+7.40	2.42
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD 0171 489 8673				
Bd & Deals	461.90	488.30	+4.70	0.71
Capital Gwth	184.60	195.20	+5.60	2.16
Wwide Opps	255.40	270.10	+3.00	0.81
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	101.20	101.20	+0.10	6.77
Cash Acc	133.10	133.10	+0.20	6.77
Income #	811.10	865.10	+29.30	3.42
Income Builder #	92.18	98.17	+3.21	4.03
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	125.60	133.60	+4.90	1.68
500	589.70	634.10	+14.90	1.59
General	475.40	508.60	+17.10	1.18
Property	273.10	293.00	+0.70	5.59
Trustee	328.80	351.90	+11.80	1.14
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	213.30	228.10	+8.70	1.09
FTSE 100	154.50	164.00	+5.70	1.38
Growth Acc	670.30	713.10	+27.30	1.13
Smaller Cos	68.29	72.64	+1.44	1.88
Smaller Cos Acc	82.75	87.73	+1.73	1.88
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	262.10	276.70	+4.60	0.02
American Growth	181.10	191.70	+4.00	
Japan	94.43	99.78	-3.32	
Japan Acc	95.56	100.90	-3.10	
Japan Spec Sits	42.52	46.06	-1.20	
Worldwide	239.20	254.60	+4.90	0.59
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	49.81	51.52	+0.01	6.55
Mngd Gwth & Inc #	50.43	53.40	+0.64	4.58
Managed Growth	52.92	56.26	+1.28	0.58
Barclays Global Investors Funds				
Income Funds				
Distribution #	121.30	132.50	+4.10	4.52
Equity Income #	197.60	210.80	-6.80	2.52
UK Fix Int	64.19	68.41	-0.01	6.70
Gilt	100.20	103.70	+0.20	5.01
Gilt Fix Int Acc	130.60	134.30	-0.10	5.01
Growth Funds - UK				
UK Growth	529.30	651.60	+26.50	1.16
UK Growth Acc	620.30	651.60	+26.50	1.16
Growth & Inc	625.90	664.20	+25.60	1.16
Growth & Inc Acc	1.44	1437	+15.50	1.16
Growth Funds - Overseas				
Euro Growth	279.60	295.90	+5.02	0.24
Euro Growth Acc	305.20	324.00	+5.40	0.24
Far Eastern Gwth	120.20	127.60	+2.80	0.47
Far East Gth Acc	204.00	217.10	+4.80	0.47
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 214 1004				
American Growth	205.30	217.30	+2.30	
Amer Smlr Cos	133.70	130.00	+2.70	
Eastern	125.70	133.70	+4.50	0.30
Equity Income #	145.90	150.90	+5.60	4.00
European Growth	597.30	634.20	+17.00	0.30
Europe	499.30	523.30	+9.30	0.60
German Growth	133.60	142.00	+10.60	0.50
Global Bond	74.73	78.62	+0.02	5.10
Global Growth	209.20	221.00	+4.50	0.13
Japan Growth	116.30	123.70	-2.70	
Japan Sumitomo	63.74	68.60	-1.60	
Korea Trust	32.05	34.75	-1.07	
Portfolio	799.97	[illegible]	+5.70	1.80
UK Growth	159.00	167.50	+4.50	1.67
UK Smaller Cos	151.60	164.20	+4.10	1.00
Select Managers	166.00	173.20	+2.30	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD 0171 250 3300				
FT Gwth Port Inc	111.20	118.30		
Special Opps Inc	64.05	68.14	-0.47	
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD 0141 223 6620				
Balanced Growth	214.79	223.33	-10.75	0.74
-do- Accum	253.80	264.17	+12.71	0.74
Smaller Cos	213.06	222.87	-8.82	0.35
-do- Accum	242.65	252.76	-9.73	0.35
Higher Yield #	82.10	86.80	+2.44	3.27
-do- Accum #	133.13	138.68	+4.02	3.27
American Gth Inc	148.20	154.32	-3.28	
European Growth	233.63	243.37	+2.17	
-do- Accum	233.53	244.51	+2.21	
Mngd Ptfls Inc	63.49	68.22	-1.34	1.19
-do- Accum	68.95	71.82	+1.40	1.19
Int Spec Opps	217.69	226.76	+5.17	
Pacific Gth	113.21	117.93	+2.93	0.94
UK General #	142.58	148.52	+5.50	2.47
-do- Accum #	159.01	165.62	+6.14	2.47
Japan	37.43	38.98	-1.05	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	111.27	115.91	-0.04	7.26
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	64.34	65.71		6.42
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0161 837 5060				
Europe	246.00	258.93	+9.20	1.21
UK Growth	312.90	329.40	+12.10	1.75
UK Income	276.20	297.60	+7.10	2.97
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD 01707 322 100				
Can Gen Dist	314.00	333.70	+9.50	1.62
-do- Income Dist	178.60	189.70	+0.80	2.62
-do- Accum	602.00	633.10	+23.00	2.67
Gilt & Fxd Int	44.15	46.37	-0.04	4.95
Growth Units	379.20	405.50	+13.20	1.44
Bond	190.80	200.70	-0.19	5.70
UK Growth	253.80	263.80	-2.40	0.37
North American	367.30	383.50	+7.00	
Far East	201.20	215.20	+6.50	0.99
UK Smaller Cos	305.70	326.90	+8.40	0.80
European	134.90	143.50	+1.50	0.45
Japanese Growth	27.55	29.21	-0.71	

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income	310.80	332.60	+9.20	2.57
Emerging Mkts Plus	228.50	243.08	+2.77	0.10
Portfolio	106.82	113.64	+2.28	1.06
UK Income Inc	134.18	142.74	+4.05	3.31
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD 0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7493 Dlg 0161 831 7456				
American & Gen	329.80	349.30	+6.10	
European Inc	147.40	158.40	+3.50	0.14
Smaller Cos (4-1)	128.90	137.20	+5.80	1.56
Growth	802.00	853.20	+33.50	1.46
Income & Growth #	666.30	708.90	+24.10	3.77
-do- Accum #	1060.80	1128.60	+38.20	3.77
Japan & Gen	46.84	49.60	-1.21	
Hallmark Gwth	1671.00	1741.00	+45.00	1.32
-do- Accum	2102.00	2190.00	+57.00	1.32
Special Sits	185.60	197.50	+7.20	1.34
High Yield	2182.00	2250.00	+85.00	3.26
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	125.35	133.43	+3.69	2.22
American Portfolio	182.14	194.77	+3.22	0.41
European Portfolio	197.36	209.55	+2.37	0.31
High Income	56.44	59.37	+0.04	6.30
Japanese Portfolio	45.36	48.09	-1.18	
Pacific Portfolio	121.72	130.99	+4.06	1.14
UK Equity	130.36	139.31	+4.33	2.67
UK Equity & 94	74.23	78.80	+1.64	4.95
UK Smlr Cos	61.25	65.51	+1.74	1.78
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	1029.89	1045.45	+1.18	3.32
Inv Fd Acc	1070.14	1086.32	+1.22	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	166.93	167.59	+0.85	7.64
Fxd Int Sec Acc	181.92	182.64	-0.31	
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	1020.15	1035.60	+10.70	3.36
Investment Acc	4954.24	5029.12	+51.96	
Fixed Int Inc	137.62	138.08	+0.56	7.53
Fixed Int Acc	279.18	280.28	+1.12	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 556 8800				
Bedrock Intl	101.51	106.72	+0.36	5.79
Bioch Bio-Tech	43.30	46.69	+1.59	
Acorn Ethical Tst	229.81	244.48	+8.09	0.30
City Fin Assets	96.14	100.96	+1.41	2.61
City Fin Intl	96.68	102.85	+2.32	
Friars Hse Cap	421.05	447.93	-6.39	2.11
Buckley Wld Gth	139.74	148.12		
Utilities Fd	93.22	94.95	+4.20	3.16
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	51.44	54.58	-0.04	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0345 772 233				
American Gwth	111.10	118.19	+2.00	
Dragon Growth	47.53	50.83	+0.89	1.18
Equity High Inc	134.08	141.88	+5.59	3.82
-do- Accum	203.37	215.20	+8.47	3.82
Extra Income Inc	29.40	30.96	-0.02	5.74
Extra Income Acc	34.61	36.45	-0.02	5.74
European Gwth	97.34	103.01	+0.96	
Evergreen	39.61	42.36	+0.45	
General Equity	155.51	164.13	+5.32	1.72
Japan Growth	30.97	32.95	-1.09	
Pedigree Gwth	97.69	103.37	+3.80	1.17
Ped Sm Cos Inc	48.44	51.26	+0.86	1.10
-do- Accum	52.15	55.19	+0.92	1.10
Retirement Inc #	38.83	41.31	+1.34	4.36
Special Sits	65.54	70.47	+1.71	1.95
UK & Overseas	76.61	81.07	+1.24	0.27
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD 01634 888 000				
Balanced	91.40	95.20	+2.32	3.14
Capital	115.50	120.31	+2.58	1.65
High Income	57.62	60.02	+0.05	6.31
Top 50	87.03	90.65	+3.45	1.61
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD 0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	269.54	280.80	+6.65	3.61
Long Gilt	52.84	55.00	-0.15	4.71
Monthly Inc Plus	61.86	64.44	+0.12	6.95
-do- Accum	75.88	79.05	+0.15	6.95
Preference Share	60.06	62.57	+0.09	6.23
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	184.84	192.56	+3.17	5.00
Managed Fund	94.04	97.97	+1.74	2.17
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	57.85	60.27	+1.51	1.41
-do- Accum	69.19	72.08	+1.82	1.41
UK & General	142.13	148.07	+4.20	1.83
-do- Accum	190.47	198.43	+5.64	1.83
UK Growth	282.14	293.93	+8.84	1.34
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	322.28	335.74	+6.83	0.40
Far Eastern Gth	97.08	101.14	-0.15	0.28
Global Bond	72.15	75.16	-0.03	5.10
Japan Growth	83.11	86.58	-2.38	
North Amer Gth	347.59	362.11	+5.80	
Oriental Growth	60.27	62.79	+1.09	0.78
Worldwide Growth	91.92	95.76	+1.75	0.27
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.75	93.75	+0.10	6.70
Homemaker Fund	113.98	121.27	+2.26	1.85
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD 0171 556 8800				
Consistent UT	48.38	51.63	+1.63	2.50
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD 0800 526 358				
Growth	227.90	242.30	+7.80	1.12
Income	99.35	105.60	+4.05	3.20
European Growth	109.50	116.30	+2.10	
Recovery	241.70	257.10	-1.30	1.70
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD 0171 283 8484				
Equity Dist	1355.80	1376.10	+64.20	3.03
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD 01277 690 370				
European Inc	99.06	105.00	+1.90	0.30
Fellowship Tst	139.10	147.90	+4.30	0.99
Income #	395.00	420.20	+15.80	3.21
-do- Accum #	1093.00	1162.00	+44.00	3.31
Smaller Cos	267.60	284.60	+6.60	0.85
-do- Accum	335.70	357.10	+8.30	0.65
Gilt Portfolio	138.40	147.20	+4.80	1.00
Mthly Inc Port #	116.00	123.40	+4.10	3.16
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD 0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1984.10	1989.70	+8.30	0.66
UK Small Cos	2496.60	2605.50	+52.00	1.39
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS 0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	289.10	298.10	+8.30	
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD Dealers: 0171 956 7354 Client Helpline 0800 317573				
Formerly KBUT				
Amer Smlr Cos	220.90	235.00	+4.90	
Asian Growth	191.90	204.10	+2.90	0.30
Bond Income	109.20	113.20	-0.90	6.80
European	279.70	297.50	+6.40	0.40
European Ptrs	145.00	154.20	+2.70	0.80
European Special	194.10	206.40	+5.10	
Gilt Yield	130.90	138.00	-0.30	6.10
Global Eqty Inc	153.70	163.20	+3.70	1.40
High Yield #	231.30	245.90	+9.50	3.60
Japan	294.00	301.70	-6.80	
Japanese Special	125.23	133.10	-3.60	
Money Market	103.69	103.89	+0.12	6.00
North American	160.60	170.70	+3.80	
Smaller Cos	183.20	194.80	+5.10	0.80
Smlr Cos Div	77.00	81.91	+2.86	4.30
Tomorrows Co Ex	1375.00	1395.00	-47.00	0.10
UK Equity Growth	70.60	75.10	+2.45	0.60
UK Index Inc	410.60	433.00	+16.20	2.40
Bircham Tst	123.90	129.60	+6.10	1.40
Global Income	274.50	292.00	+2.50	2.70
Formerly Thornton				
European	420.20	562.00	+9.50	0.20
Europe Ed	37.17	39.70	-0.04	6.30
Exempt	985.20	1028.00	+34.20	1.80
Global Em Mkts	73.38	82.01	-0.91	0.30
Japan Tst	59.08	61.95	-1.28	
Little Dragons	74.78	78.29	-2.67	
Sth Asian Gwth	435.30	459.50	-9.50	0.60
Oriental Income #	36.70	38.45	-0.03	2.40
Preference	151.70	155.01	-0.30	7.30
Tiger	199.30	207.60	-4.30	
UK Blue Chip	126.20	137.20	+5.50	1.10
UK Growth	186.20	199.70	+3.00	1.20
UK High Yield #	160.70	174.40	+5.50	3.80
UK Mid Cap	171.50	183.00	+3.40	1.00
UK Smlr Co Div #	[illegible]	101.95	[illegible]	5.90
UK Smlr Cos	158.00	165.40	+2.10	0.10
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0345 090 526				
Convertibles #	27.33	29.64	+2.68	3.82
Enterprise	131.50	139.80	-0.30	1.79
Equity Income #	200.10	212.60	+8.13	3.01
European	89.25	94.06	-1.10	
Financial	89.57	94.53	+3.60	1.16
Growth & Inc #	414.95	442.40	+17.95	1.99
High Dist #	35.35	37.53	-0.30	3.77
International	48.49	[illegible]	-0.10	
Ind Cap Inc	120.50	127.30	+2.20	1.34
Latin American	27.04	29.35	-0.75	
Mgd Gwth Port	109.10	114.00	+1.13	0.61
Pacific	70.52	74.99	+2.01	
Pref High Inc	22.41	23.21	-0.12	6.16
Tokyo	38.00	39.06	-4.80	
UK Smaller Cos	313.40	331.10	+9.30	1.06
Japan Sm Cos	27.50	30.10	-0.70	
Nth Amer	534.50	[illegible]	[illegible]	
UK Inc & Gth	371.10	[illegible]	-15.20	2.00
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD 0171 242 0242				
Brit Overseas Gap	129.64	132.16		0.94
Growth Acc	351.10	373.90	+6.60	0.72
Income	726.30	768.50	+18.70	4.06
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	275.00	290.51	+2.40	3.87
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 01296 431 480				
European	135.50	143.00	+3.30	1.22
Ethical Tst	61.87	65.12	+2.13	1.16
Far Eastern	26.65	28.61	+2.24	1.08
High Income	202.14	212.78	+7.37	3.46
UK Index Trckg	76.90	80.96	+2.66	2.17
Intl Growth	147.72	155.49	+1.49	1.22
North American	218.63	228.14	+7.14	1.21
Pelican	207.30	218.10	+7.12	2.23
Smaller Cos	86.02	90.56	+1.21	1.92
Special Sits	103.31	110.02	+2.48	2.30
Tst of Inv Tsts	255.59	272.53	+7.12	1.60
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD 01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	173.12	190.05	-6.35	
Fd of Inv Tsts	62.70	73.36	+2.72	0.11
High Income #	59.53	63.53	+1.06	9.51
Mkt & Gl Opps	64.19	68.68	+2.51	
Zero Preference	50.81	53.31	+0.15	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD 01273 724 570				
Family Asset Tst	141.50	150.20	+4.30	1.96
Charities Eth	392.30	422.60	+11.20	2.29
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD Callfree: Private Clients 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		7.00
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	26.58	27.94	-0.06	4.68
Strategic Inc	31.56	32.98	-0.07	5.11
Income Funds				
High Income	34.29	35.92	+0.51	4.37
Income Plus #	197.50	210.10	+5.50	3.31
European Income	72.56	76.12	+1.56	1.79
Moneybuilder Gwth #	46.56	48.99	+1.64	2.02
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	31.32	33.03	+1.40	
American	471.60	503.80	+8.90	
Amer Spec Sits	285.90	272.30	+5.80	
Japan Smaller Cos	17.71	19.25	-0.33	
Eurotop	347.20	369.20	+7.70	0.75
European Opps	129.60	137.72	+2.30	0.41
Global Pev	42.32	44.19	+1.36	0.34
UK Growth	179.10	190.50	+2.70	1.02
Growth & Inc #	265.90	284.90	+10.00	2.12
Intl PEP	68.35	72.71	+1.80	0.95
Japan Spec Sits	56.63	60.07	-1.36	
Japan	137.20	150.80	-2.60	
Managed Intl	471.30	506.80	+8.60	0.53
Moneybuilder Pfg	86.56	87.18	+1.51	0.30
Recovery	77.32	82.73	+2.61	1.65

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
South E Asia	159.10	169.60	+5.70	1.23
Special Sits	1021.00	1086.00	+8.00	1.04
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	124.30	124.30	+0.13	7.08
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	183.80	185.40	+1.40	1.48
Finsbury Pfl Inc #	115.80	116.70	+0.80	5.29
Cap Pfolio	208.60	210.20	+3.10	0.24
General Opps	185.30	186.40	+2.40	2.50
Growth Inc	54.50	56.25	+1.80	1.00
Private Portfolio	622.20	627.70	+3.70	1.00
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT Dlg 01277 690 308 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	216.60	230.10	+5.50	
High Income	24.94	26.47	+0.73	8.50
UK Smlr Cos	30.76	32.32	+0.84	1.77
US Smaller Cos	583.40	619.10	+4.60	
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775611				
American Growth	119.80	126.90	+2.50	
-do- Accum	119.80	126.90	+2.50	
Amer Smlr Cos	864.90	919.00	+22.20	
-do- Accum	883.60	938.90	+22.80	
Capital Tst	471.00	501.10	+11.20	1.26
-do- Accum	703.50	748.40	+19.00	1.26
Conti Smlr Cos	81.45	86.74	+3.60	
-do- Accum	87.40	93.07	+3.86	
Convertible	162.70	173.10	+5.40	5.83
-do- Accum	378.30	402.40	+12.50	5.83
Emerging Markets	61.15	65.33	+1.75	0.07
-do- Accum	61.66	65.88	+1.76	0.07
European	225.30	238.60	+2.98	
-do- Accum	239.50	253.70	+3.10	
Extra Income	544.40	579.20	+16.10	3.99
-do- Accum	906.90	964.60	+27.00	3.99
Financial	287.60	306.00	+8.20	0.94
-do- Accum	308.10	327.80	+8.80	0.94
Gilt Trust	65.29	67.32	+0.06	7.04
-do- Accum	107.50	110.90	+0.10	7.04
Health Fund Inc	305.60	325.10	+4.40	
-do- Accum	305.60	325.10	+4.40	
Income & Growth	317.00	337.20	+12.60	3.77
-do- Accum	528.60	562.50	+20.90	3.77
Intl Growth	525.00	558.40	-10.00	
-do- Accum	583.00	620.10	+11.30	
Japan & Gen	115.60	122.70	-3.00	
-do- Accum	116.70	123.90	-3.10	
Monthly Inc #	274.00	291.50	+8.70	3.98
-do- Accum #	289.10	307.60	+9.30	3.99
Managed Port Inc	147.00	154.70	+1.40	1.16
-do- Accum	167.70	170.20	+1.60	1.16
Quarterly Income #	72.63	77.71	+2.45	4.81
-do- Accum #	88.72	95.00	+2.99	4.81
Recovery	335.10	358.40	+6.80	
-do- Accum	395.50	423.00	+8.00	
UK Growth	87.74	93.34	+2.88	1.25
-do- Accum	96.95	103.10	+3.16	1.25
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	89.01	94.62	+1.38	
FP Am Smlr Cos	240.70	256.70	+8.30	
FP Asian Growth	174.00	185.60	+3.40	
FP Australian	448.30	478.80	+0.80	
FP Equity Dist	660.30	704.30	+27.00	1.46
-do- Accum	1509.00	1608.00	+62.00	1.46
FP Euro Gth	452.10	482.20	+9.40	
-do- Accum	495.30	528.30	+10.40	
FP Intl Bond	56.77	60.07	-0.12	3.90
FP Intl Gth Dist	49.07	52.34	+0.94	
-do- Accum	72.35	77.17	+1.40	
FP Pac Basin Acc	172.10	183.50	+0.30	0.07
FP Income #	82.84	88.36	+3.72	3.85
-do- Accum #	308.40	328.90	+13.90	3.85
FP Jap Smlr Cos	161.90	172.60	-4.10	
FP Monthly Dist #	95.60	101.90	+2.79	4.33
FP Stlg Deposit	101.20	101.20	+0.20	6.55
FP Tokyo	61.77	65.88	-1.13	
FP UK Focus	61.67	65.78	+2.25	0.99
FP UK Growth	288.90	308.10	+11.00	1.01
-do- Accum	599.40	639.30	+22.90	1.01
Stewardship Dist	549.10	585.70	+18.20	1.14
-do- Accum	703.40	750.20	+23.40	1.14
Stewardship Inc Dist #	85.89	91.61	+2.59	4.24
-do- Accum #	126.30	134.70	+3.80	4.24
Stewardship Intnl	175.80	187.50	+2.00	
-do- Accum	189.20	201.80	+2.28	
FP Exempt Trust				
Intl Ethical In #	144.90	145.80	+5.10	2.30
Intl Ethical Ac #	148.50	149.20	+5.20	2.30
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	163.70	174.10	+4.20	0.48
Opp Cap Gth Acc	162.80	173.10	+3.20	0.08
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	144.60	153.80	+2.20	2.39
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	158.40	168.50	+2.40	2.39
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	150.40	160.00	+2.80	3.06
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	167.80	178.50	+3.20	3.06
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0345 581 108/7				
GANDA	428.30	450.80	+15.50	1.03
Cash	49.63	50.37	+0.05	6.31
Income Portfolio	94.61	99.59	+2.14	2.38
GA Equity Gth	317.90	338.20	+8.00	1.09
GA European Gth	194.40	205.90	+2.80	
GA Japan Gth	75.33	79.98	-2.01	
GA Nth Amer Gth	342.00	360.00	+7.70	
GA Intl Gth	156.00	165.80	+3.60	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 8431				
American Smlr Cos	286.80	306.30	+6.30	0.11
European Gth	1035.00	1098.00	+23.00	0.22
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	65.17	68.94	+0.40	3.07
-do- Accum	76.07	80.47	+0.46	3.07
High Yield #	55.75	58.91	+0.25	6.70
-do- Accum #	67.34	71.15	+0.30	6.70
Income Inc	271.90	290.80	+12.60	2.83
-do- Accum	325.10	347.70	+15.00	2.83
Intl Growth	435.50	465.40	+2.30	1.80
Intl Income	129.70	137.40	+0.90	3.85
Japan Growth	379.80	402.30	-3.70	
Orient Acc	145.20	155.10	-5.90	0.19
UK Blue Chip Inc	272.50	290.70	+10.70	1.05
UK Blue Chip Acc	494.70	527.70	+19.40	1.05
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	86.56	92.58	+3.64	1.26
US Growth	271.80	287.30	+2.50	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS 0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	85.10	90.91	+2.62	1.33
Practical Inv Inc #	156.48	167.36	+3.30	2.87
-do- Accum #	390.75	417.91	+9.79	2.87
UK Index	258.89	260.19	+8.49	2.40
UK Smaller Cos	287.48	307.46	+8.90	1.09
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	26.55	27.51	-0.01	6.80
High Income	48.90	52.17	+1.61	3.12
UK Growth & Inc	222.95	237.32	+6.86	2.14
Global Bond	27.22	28.21	-0.43	5.60
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	44.64	47.74	+0.47	
Global Managed	171.63	181.98	+2.42	0.71
Gold & Intl Res	75.78	81.05	-1.83	
Global Utilities	214.50	228.73	+9.03	3.77
Overseas Funds				
American	278.46	294.64	+6.52	0.05
European	202.33	214.99	+5.78	0.33
Euro Sel Opps	332.54	353.65	+10.28	
Amer Emerging	230.66	244.91	-7.24	
Hong Kong	130.94	139.91	+4.52	2.59
Japan	141.19	149.44	-4.25	
Pacific Growth	157.00	168.18	+3.63	0.77
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Cash Trust	156.69	156.69	+0.17	6.90
Managed Equity	323.69	[illegible]	+6.83	1.56
Long Term Bal	342.75	342.75	+7.44	2.54
Med Term Bal	280.22	280.22	+4.89	2.85
UK Equity	425.63	425.63	+14.07	1.66
UK Emerging Cos	214.94	214.94	+4.82	1.77
American	464.67	464.67	+9.24	0.30
Japan	86.67	86.67	-1.32	
European	523.50	523.50	+10.33	0.62
Index Linked Gilt	217.35	217.35	-1.12	2.47
Fixed Interest	210.75	210.75	-0.43	6.13
Amer Emerging	517.34	517.34	-17.86	
Pacific	140.30	140.30	+2.47	1.11
Emerging Mkts	131.50	131.50	+1.08	0.64
Index Strat Japan	95.67	95.67	-2.48	0.50
-do- Pacific Rim	130.79	130.79	+4.62	1.64
-do- Cont Europe	282.64	282.64	+4.21	1.09
Index Strat USA	290.72	290.72	-5.91	1.04
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	155.40	165.40	+4.45	
Med Term Bal	154.42	163.00	+3.90	
Long Term Bal	155.09	164.99	+3.56	
UK Equity	159.97	171.86	+7.50	
UK Emerging Cos	161.64	171.95	+3.44	
American	216.71	230.01	+4.60	
Japan	41.47	44.11	-0.98	
European	213.47	227.41	+3.66	
Fixed Interest	103.60	116.59	-0.21	
Index Linked Gilt	137.63	[illegible]	-0.50	
Deposit	94.74	100.99	+3.11	
Broker Unit Trust				
BSN Unit	179.97	191.44	+3.25	0.45
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Intl Gwth Inc #	882.95		+25.13	
-do- Accum #	1,100.57		+29.64	
European Gth Acc #	241.12		+3.36	0.35
Japan Inc	232.37	213.79	-2.62	
N Amer Gwth Inc #	633.13		-23.54	
Far East Gth Inc #	258.15		+0.37	3.21
-do- Accum #	180.02		-10.45	1.75
UK Dvid Inc #	273.00		+5.06	2.50
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD 0171 532 9668				
European	826.20	887.70	+12.60	
Gilt & Fixed	134.37	151.60	-2.11	5.07
Growth Equity	584.10	630.40	+22.20	1.83
Income Trust	215.30	229.00	+10.30	3.32
International	250.60	267.70	+3.40	
Japan Trust	25.49	27.37	-1.24	
Nth American	496.30	521.70	+6.25	
Pacific	384.10	410.30	+12.00	0.45
Guardian	945.10	992.90	+32.30	1.57
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD 0171 522 2129				
European Bond	37.39	39.07	-0.05	4.24
Global High Inc	19.05	20.53	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stlg Bond Pflo	17.52	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
East Strat Pflo	150.28	159.76	+4.64	[illegible]
European Pflo	127.27	135.02	-3.27	
World Mids Pflo	95.67	98.59	+1.11	0.12
UK Eq Inc Pflo	120.85	126.70	+2.77	2.12
-do- Accum	211.06	222.91	[illegible]	[illegible]
UK Opps	503.70	531.20	[illegible]	[illegible]
-do- Accum	125.00	131.80	+5.80	..
Gl Vlue High Inc	171.38	174.55	[illegible]	[illegible]
Glob Fin Tst	160.10	170.63	[illegible]	[illegible]
-do- Accum	167.95	177.47	+5.36	5.54
Inc Share Tst	134.86	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hsp & China Tst	40.56	43.52	+3.55	[illegible]
Blue Chip Pflo	247.45	261.70	+12.11	[illegible]
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD Dealing 01904 611110				
Balanced Inc	74.51	79.40	+2.28	2.45
Balanced Acc	82.69	87.69	+2.59	2.45
Growth	48.70	51.61	+1.67	1.30
Growth Acc	50.44	53.66	+1.73	1.30
Income	34.15	36.62	+1.18	3.26
Income Acc	45.57	48.50	+1.45	3.26
Accumulation Tst	40.06	42.40	+1.32	2.60
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD Enquiries: 01277 690 297 Dealing: 01277 690 412				
UK Port Acc	63.25	67.11	+2.25	2.55
HENDERSON INVESTORS Enquiries 0845 484949 Dealing 0845 484848				
UK Funds				
UK Prefs	501.10	538.50	+16.12	[illegible]
Rest of Britain	702.98	757.37	+29.59	[illegible]
UK Smaller Cos	199.80	214.35	+5.47	2.17
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	434.60	462.24	+13.46	2.76
-do- Accum #	1279.78	1382.93	+54.35	2.76
High Income	474.33	507.06	+15.02	3.25
Extra Income #	398.90	412.67	+17.90	3.53
Pref & Bond	59.55	61.69	-0.15	6.61
International				
Ethical	166.73	178.37	+4.76	1.36
International	383.44	403.54	+7.71	0.49
Global Bond	63.65	65.39	+0.09	5.70
Ind Port Tst	124.95	132.62	+2.51	0.07
Global Tech	37.17	34.55	+1.77	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	158.42	168.46	+2.65	0.66
European	920.51	978.31	+11.04	
European Income #	132.75	141.50	+3.54	2.39
Euro Smll Cos	131.10	138.92	+1.39	
European Value	137.35	139.53	+2.33	
-do- Accum	142.54	151.81	+2.33	
Japan Trust	126.78	134.07	-2.71	

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japan Smlr Cos	172.21	177.76	-1.51	..
Pacific Smlr Cos	175.50	185.97	+3.98	..
North American	472.97	492.38	+7.58	
American Smaller	258.04	272.08	+2.54	
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS 0800 520053				
British	184.30	192.62	-6.21	1.32
Capital	258.36	281.01	+6.80	0.91
Dollar	75.93	79.62	+12.12	..
Enterprise Gth	572.72	620.71	+13.05	0.61
European	399.35	417.13	+6.68	
Far East	232.99	248.42	-9.60	1.12
Financial	1691.41	1771.17	+44.33	0.89
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	29.25	30.40	-0.07	5.57
High Yield	161.68	169.20	+6.05	3.52
Income & Growth	279.31	293.50	+8.00	2.62
International	313.76	330.33	+8.09	0.37
Japanese General	135.46	146.03	-3.43	...
Japan Tech	62.77	67.63	-1.42	
Nat Resources	59.65	62.67	-0.25	1.11
Portfolio	109.71	114.88	+2.53	2.16
Special Sits	296.93	314.92	+14.99	0.99
UK Emerging Cos	143.33	155.84	+2.59	0.83
US Smaller Cos	206.11	215.68	+6.22	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Fund-UK				
Income #	922.40	984.40	+34.50	3.79
UK Growth	995.50	1062.	+36.00	1.11
High Income #	162.20	173.10	+4.68	4.78
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	550.70	590.60	+20.10	..
European Gwth	325.50	350.43	-4.90	
Japan Gwth	209.98	223.00	-5.10	..
Japan Smlr Cos	18.40	19.64	-0.46	
Asian	37.72	42.39	+1.43	1.00
Sing & Malay Gwth	45.79	48.37	+2.75	
Hong Kong Gwth	155.43	166.60	+7.32	0.80
Global Bond	20.76	21.87	-0.02	5.04
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	244.20	245.40	+8.10	2.18
Tower Index	155.90	159.80	+4.30	2.17
THE FOOTSIE FUND	93.90	100.45	+3.49	1.49
Index Funds-International				
American Index	425.60	437.70	+8.00	0.40
Eurotrack 100	290.30	291.80	+4.50	0.41
Japan Index	51.15	51.47	-1.30	0.29
Tiger Index	104.70	107.20	+3.80	1.44
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	58.93	61.44	+3.25	1.31
General Funds				
Managed Dist	110.90	118.80	+2.90	0.92
Managed	115.43	120.50	+2.90	0.92
Rupert Child Fnd	157.20	164.20	+5.98	0.91
UK Growth	97.86	102.20	+3.01	1.05
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	121.70	127.10	+3.80	4.47
Gilt & Fixed Int #	29.15	30.12	-0.44	7.29
UK Inc & Gwth	69.94	72.94	+2.33	1.95
UK Income #	543.20	567.30	+20.70	3.12
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	85.86	88.31	+1.01	
Asian Smlr Cos	211.63	220.20	+4.58	
-do- Accum	214.00	222.50	+4.50	
Europe Gth	373.10	388.40	+10.70	..
-do- Accum	386.50	402.30	+11.30	..
Euro Smaller Cos	66.54	69.29	+2.80	
French Growth	133.70	138.80	+3.90	0.45
-do- Accum	144.80	150.20	+4.30	0.45
H Kong & China	104.90	109.30	+4.80	0.85
Intl Growth	85.43	88.91	+2.01	0.47
-do- Accum	87.16	90.72	+2.06	0.47
Japan Gth	19.32	20.14	-0.52	
-do- Accum	19.32	20.14	-0.52	
Japan Smaller Cos	18.93	19.78	-0.38	
Glob Emg Mkts	91.84	95.71	+1.02	0.83
-do- Accum	92.29	96.39	+1.02	0.03
SE Asia	219.30	229.50	+11.60	0.58
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	49.69	51.43	-0.01	5.10
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690448				
UK Income #	180.10	189.40	+6.30	2.41
UK Growth	166.80	176.50	+6.50	1.20
Euro Growth	137.90	146.40	+1.70	1.52
Slater Gwth	272.00	287.80	+1.20	0.70
New Japan	59.27	62.94	-1.82	
Global Growth	112.30	118.90	+1.50	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD 0171 581 3020				
World Health	180.10	191.50	-1.20	
Income #	301.72	320.96	+7.05	3.74
UK Growth	116.84	124.29	+4.16	1.71
Intl Growth	107.68	114.54	+3.28	
Ecology	135.82	144.48	+5.74	0.58
European	297.48	315.67	+5.87	0.41
Far Eastern	257.30	273.60	-0.80	
UK Special Sits	80.25	85.59	+2.82	0.30
Fd of Inv Tsts	67.46	71.75	+1.70	0.38
High Income #	69.77	74.41	+2.54	4.43
Financial Opps	67.94	72.42	+2.88	0.11
Growth & Income #	57.67	61.49	+2.30	3.00

For Kleinwort Benson see Dresdner RCM



Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT 0171 556 8800				
Budget Income	428.79	456.16	+13.99	3.90
Est Growth	135.99	145.73	-1.36	0.47
Inc & Growth	102.70	109.26	+3.04	2.85
Smaller Cos	125.06	133.04	+3.32	1.23
Euro Spec Sit Inc	71.30	75.85	+1.63	1.52
Eur Spec Sit Acc	75.47	80.29	+1.73	1.52
Passive Growth	63.30	67.34	+1.11	1.91
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD [illegible]				
UK Cap	635.59	675.10	+26.80	1.29
UK Inc Gth #	662.02	708.60	-22.00	2.71
UK Income #	474.10	501.40	+11.50	3.76
UK Income Acc #	483.20	513.00	+19.10	3.76
UK Smlr Cos	333.20	350.50	+10.50	1.66
Euro Gwth	[illegible]	[illegible]	+3.70	0.22
Intl Gwth	[illegible]	173.00	+2.50	
Pacific Growth	[illegible]	7.45	-0.38	0.19
Emg Mkts Gwth	[illegible]	76.55	+2.33	
Japan Growth	42.37	44.96	-1.42	
[illegible]				
[illegible]	[illegible]	75.58	+1.35	0.56
[illegible]	[illegible]	97.53	+1.35	0.56
[illegible]	[illegible]	99.36	+2.08	3.05
[illegible]	[illegible]	104.54	+2.31	2.90
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+0.57	
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD Enquiries 01222 845412 Dealing 01222 682512				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+35.70	1.69
[illegible]	1514.00	1714.00	+56.30	1.48
[illegible]	[illegible]	139.50	+4.30	3.91
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+3.32	5.43
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+2.50	0.05
[illegible]	[illegible]	196.60	-0.90	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+2.09	7.02
[illegible]	[illegible]	161.45	+0.30	5.77
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-1.27	0.06
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.03	4.32
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-1.23	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+4.90	0.07
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+2.32	0.89
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+1.10	2.89
[illegible]	[illegible]	172.70	+3.70	2.15
[illegible]	[illegible]	153.40	+4.30	1.04
[illegible]	[illegible]	209.10	+7.50	3.96
[illegible]	[illegible]	127.10	+2.50	0.53
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+2.30	0.64
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-0.42	3.04
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-2.90	9.19
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS [illegible]				
Growth	[illegible]	56.15	+2.47	1.57
[illegible]	[illegible]	130.10	-3.37	3.42
Far East	[illegible]	[illegible]	+0.44	
North American	[illegible]	132.50	+3.00	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-3.10	0.35
European	[illegible]	105.50	+2.40	0.39
Japan	[illegible]	66.19	-1.42	
[illegible]	[illegible]	59.35	-3.01	4.34
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+2.33	0.64
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+5.30	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	117.50	+4.91	[illegible]
Managed	92.70	93.55	+1.75	[illegible]
Cash	52.45	56.47	-0.05	6.74
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD Helpdesk 01634 834 333 Dealing 01634 834 313				
[illegible]	[illegible]	522.20	-21.20	1.47
[illegible]	[illegible]	1540.00	+57.30	1.47
[illegible]	[illegible]	112.70	+2.80	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+1.00	0.01
[illegible]	[illegible]	425.30	+17.10	2.79
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-63.00	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	132.50	-7.00	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+7.50	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	115.90	+1.10	0.08
[illegible]	246.60	222.40	+7.40	0.08
[illegible]	554.20	595.60	+27.70	0.78
[illegible]	947.60	[illegible]	+28.40	0.78
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+0.10	6.61
[illegible]	[illegible]	132.60	-0.10	6.61
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-3.80	4.76
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+4.50	4.76
[illegible]	[illegible]	573.62	+31.35	1.02
[illegible]	1414.00	2569.30	+91.00	3.17
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+7.30	[illegible]
[illegible]	530.90	[illegible]	+24.60	3.36
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+1.36	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-1.27	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+2.22	1.08
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+2.60	1.06
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+0.63	1.60
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+3.70	0.50
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+7.90	0.50
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	+6.60	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-6.40	
Pacific Basin	[illegible]	[illegible]	+7.10	0.55
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	+8.40	0.55
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-3.50	[illegible]
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT [illegible]				
General	159.70	169.80	+5.37	2.00
Income	135.45	[illegible]	+3.35	3.50

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
International	87.85	94.26	+1.41	0.30
Tst of Inv Trusts	97.54	104.65	+3.59	0.90
M & G SECURITIES Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg 01245 390 390				
American	702.20	741.30	+14.70	0.43
-do- Accum	882.20	931.40	+18.50	0.43
Amer Recovery	834.20	862.20	+5.30	0.23
-do- Accum	964.80	1020.30	+6.50	0.23
Amer Smlr Cos	196.30	207.50	-0.20	...
-do- Accum	200.40	212.00	-0.20	
Australasian	199.20	210.70	-1.10	2.08
-do- Accum	257.20	272.10	+1.40	2.08
Blue Chip #	101.60	107.15	+4.15	3.08
-do- Accum #	314.10	315.70	+12.83	3.08
British Opps	76.80	81.30	+2.80	2.24
-do- Accum	276.90	292.90	+10.30	2.24
Capital	1267.50	1348.40	+42.80	2.22
-do- Accum	1563.40	1653.30	+52.70	2.22
Charifund #	1118.40	1129.60	+42.20	4.32
-do- Accum #	6214.90	6277.10	+234.80	4.32
Commodity	343.80	367.70	+2.30	1.50
-do- Accum	509.20	538.40	+3.30	1.50
Corporate Bond	28.30	29.59	-0.34	6.10
Dividend	61.60	65.10	+2.90	3.72
-do- Accum	290.10	306.90	+13.90	3.72
Equity Income #	426.50	451.00	+6.20	4.41
-do- Accum #	631.90	662.10	+23.50	4.41
European	919.20	972.10	+20.50	0.31
-do- Accum	1196.40	1254.70	+26.50	0.31
Euro Dividend #	115.10	121.70	+3.50	2.88
-do- Accum #	152.20	160.90	+4.60	2.88
Euro Smlr Cos	71.40	75.50	+2.10	0.50
-do- Accum	71.70	75.70	+2.00	0.50
Extra Income	662.50	700.60	+23.60	4.13
-do- Accum	2365.60	2501.70	+114.20	4.13
Fund of Inv Tsts	831.70	942.20	+20.30	1.08
-do- Accum	1747.40	1847.60	+39.70	1.08
Gilt Income	70.10	70.22	+0.14	5.50
-do- Accum	230.13	230.52	+0.46	5.50
Gold	37.60	39.80	-0.40	0.73
-do- Accum	45.40	48.10	-0.50	0.73
High Interest	25.19	25.19	+0.04	7.26
Income #	46.90	49.60	+1.60	3.68
-do- Accum #	211.60	224.30	+8.20	3.68
Intl Growth	101.80	107.70	+2.30	0.67
-do- Accum	181.20	191.80	+4.10	0.67
International Inc #	140.90	149.00	+3.70	3.73
-do- Accum #	233.90	247.40	+6.20	3.73
Japan	24.40	25.70	-0.70	0.01
-do- Accum	26.10	27.50	-0.90	0.01
Japan Smlr Cos	83.40	88.10	-1.80	0.07
-do- Accum	84.00	88.70	-1.80	0.07
Managed Gwth vi	32.78	32.99	+1.05	1.23
Managed Income #	38.80	39.18	+1.12	3.90
Pension Ex	1531.60	1569.20	+59.20	2.71
Recovery	65.90	69.60	+2.80	2.21
-do- Accum	116.90	123.60	+5.00	2.21
Smaller Cos	78.20	82.70	+2.80	1.95
-do- Accum	168.20	177.90	+5.90	1.95
Sth East Asia	272.90	288.60	+13.90	1.65
-do- Accum	370.60	391.90	+18.90	1.65
Trustee #	59.00	62.40	+2.10	4.44
-do- Accum #	267.80	283.60	+9.60	4.44
UK Equity #	93.40	98.80	+2.90	3.53
-do- Accum #	267.10	282.50	+8.20	3.53
UK Growth	1563.80	1653.70	+61.50	1.42
-do- Accum	1768.70	1870.40	+69.80	1.42
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	155.29	165.20	+3.46	0.29
Intl Bond	61.54	64.64	-0.21	3.43
Intl Equity Growth	105.77	112.31	+1.79	0.39
N Amer Growth	199.69	217.09	+2.50	0.36
Special Sits Growth	40.44	43.02	+1.58	1.49
UK Growth	668.41	711.07	+23.71	1.84
-do- Accum	942.51	1002.67	+33.44	1.84
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD 01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1567.80	1588.80	+9.50	2.60
Income #	1290.80	1311.90	+25.70	3.90
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	213.80	216.60	..	3.23
MANEK INVESTMENT MGMT LTD 0171 615 7070				
Growth Fd Acc	114.00	121.60	+2.50	
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 0800 363432				
High Income #	109.00	112.40	+1.30	5.88
Investment Pflo	231.80	239.00	+5.80	1.82
-do- Accum	283.10	291.80	+7.10	1.82
UK Select Pflo	228.60	235.70	+8.60	1.55
-do- Accum	283.50	292.20	+10.60	1.55
UK 100 Cos	178.90	178.90	+7.00	1.68
-do- Accum	186.60	186.60	+7.30	1.68
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	81.60	86.81		2.60
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 479 4846				
Intl Income	109.80	116.60	+2.70	3.70
European	144.50	153.40	+1.50	0.22
Income #	115.30	122.40	+3.90	3.26
Nth American	122.90	130.40	+2.10	0.18
Far East	137.90	146.40	+0.90	
Japan	49.70	52.76	-1.49	
Emerging Mkts	82.27	87.95	+1.21	0.66
Intl Growth	151.30	160.60	+2.20	0.59
UK Growth	163.00	173.00	+5.40	1.57
UK Smlr Co	71.36	75.74	+1.58	1.45
Asia Pacific	28.86	30.67	+0.60	0.18
Glob Gwth PEP	79.74	84.64	+1.11	0.57
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0151 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	121.60	129.60	+2.50	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD 0171 556 8800				
Income	679.30	722.65	+19.97	2.48
Global Inc	101.06	107.51	-1.71	2.25
Gnl Leaders Inc	530.66	564.29	+15.13	1.68
Intl Leaders	315.30	335.43	+4.66	0.31
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	399.70	421.50	-8.70	
-do- Accum	427.60	450.70	-8.80	
American Opps	161.90	171.40	+2.70	
-do- Accum	163.30	172.50	-2.70	
Bal Port	122.50	130.20	+2.80	1.28
-do- Accum	154.40	164.20	+3.50	1.28
Prnt-a Blue Chip	142.00	150.80	+4.58	2.13
-do- Accum	183.30	200.10	+5.90	2.13
Cash	107.90	107.00	+0.20	7.03
-do- Accum *	159.70	159.70	+0.20	7.03
Emerging Mkts	131.90	141.70	-1.30	0.22
-do- Accum	133.70	142.80	+1.40	0.22
European Growth	485.80	513.50	+6.70	0.10
-do- Accum	529.40	564.40	-7.20	0.15
General	910.30	961.20	+19.60	1.97
-do- Accum	1768.00	1874.00	+41.00	1.97
Global Bond	126.50	133.00	-1.30	3.22
-do- Accum	170.90	180.00	-0.50	3.22
Gold & General	118.30	123.70	-5.40	0.52
-do- Accum	120.40	126.00	-5.60	0.52
Govt Securities	103.90	109.10	-0.10	4.80
-do- Accum	134.10	140.80	-0.10	4.80
High Yield Bd	111.70	114.40	-0.13	5.44
-do- Accum	128.40	131.60		5.44
Income	271.10	287.50	+9.20	3.12
-do- Accum	471.00	504.90	+16.20	3.12
Inc Portfolio #	145.20	151.70	+3.10	4.65
-do- Accum #	163.90	175.10	+3.40	4.65
Intl Opps	691.00	734.60	+28.50	0.68
-do- Accum	951.60	1015.00	+38.20	0.68
Japan	131.10	139.70	-3.40	
-do- Accum	134.50	143.50	-3.30	
New Europe	337.40	352.50	+11.10	0.79
-do- Accum	349.90	372.90	+11.70	0.79
Pacific	75.29	80.71	+1.55	0.21
-do- Accum	81.22	86.65	+2.00	0.21
Recovery	604.60	645.70	+17.90	1.44
-do- Accum	920.00	985.60	+27.80	1.44
UK Smaller Cos	73.13	78.01	+1.80	1.51
-do- Accum	85.82	91.58	+2.10	1.51
Managed Gth	155.30	162.40	+3.70	1.57
Managed Inc	150.50	159.20	+2.90	3.30
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Enq 0345 456 123 Dlg 0345 456 126				
Balanced	53.31	56.47	+1.95	2.70
-do- Accum	95.98	104.70	+3.12	2.00
Britain Tst	153.40	162.30	+5.60	[illegible]
-do- Accum	182.90	202.30	+6.80	[illegible]
Corp Bond Inc	102.60	[illegible]		5.96
-do- Accum	112.60	123.90		5.96
Extra High Inc #	86.63	91.10	+2.17	5.21
-do- Accum #	215.30	228.60	+5.25	5.21
FTSE 100 Acc	120.30	127.25	+4.03	[illegible]
FTSE 100 Dist	119.51	126.81	+3.63	[illegible]
Gilt & Fxd Int	65.45	68.13	+0.34	5.61
-do- Accum	106.60	111.20	+0.20	5.61
High Yield #	79.30	84.30	+3.00	4.58
-do- Accum #	165.90	176.60	+6.50	4.58
Household Homes	135.70	143.70	+4.70	1.53
Income #	400.60	425.90	+16.80	3.41
-do- Accum #	783.00	832.00	+32.00	3.41
Money Market UT	49.54	49.56	+0.06	6.47
-do- Accum	60.71	60.76	+0.11	6.47
Monthly Income	151.20	157.42	-3.45	3.55
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
Britain	200.30	213.50	+7.40	1.54
European Growth	229.60	237.70	+4.40	
Gilt & Fixed	118.90	123.50	-0.10	5.50
Income	196.10	196.90	+6.10	3.11
Japan Growth	32.24	34.14	-0.93	
Managed	109.10	116.10	+3.20	2.00
Money Market	103.60	109.90	+0.20	4.97
North American	154.40	163.60	+2.70	
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
Britain	155.20	165.30	+6.70	1.55
European Growth	172.60	187.20	+4.00	
Gilt & Fixed Int	118.90	123.60	-0.10	5.65
Income	172.86	182.60	+6.00	3.11
Japan Growth	31.21	34.22	-0.57	
Managed	109.90	115.80	+3.70	2.05
Money Market	103.60	107.80	+0.20	4.97
North American	152.80	160.80	+2.70	
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
Britain	195.70	208.35	+6.70	1.55
European Growth	213.52	226.70	+4.00	
Gilt & Fixed Int	99.24	104.00	-0.10	5.70
Income	184.70	196.20	+6.00	3.11

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japan Growth	32.99	34.97	-0.63	
Managed	168.10	175.00	+2.40	2.05
Money Market	85.78	90.92	+0.11	5.02
North American	154.40	163.70	+2.80	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	663.40	701.60	+9.00	
European Gth Inc	738.50	784.90	+7.80	...
-do- Accum	747.60	793.50	+7.90	
Intl Gwth	294.90	312.20	+4.80	
UK Equity Inc	311.60	330.40	+10.40	3.07
Do. Accum	440.20	467.60	+14.70	3.07
UK Growth Inc	183.20	196.80	+5.70	2.56
-do- Accum	197.70	205.90	+5.90	2.56
UK Ind Trclo Inc	280.20	298.20	+9.70	2.19
-do- Accum	357.80	381.90	+12.30	2.19
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	419.60	443.50	+8.10	0.77
Japan Tracker	46.45	49.00	-1.24	
Asian Tracker	145.90	157.20	+5.20	0.42
Mngd Ptflo Inc	241.40	257.10	+6.40	1.39
Mngd Ptflo Acc	269.60	287.10	+6.00	1.39
Deposit Inc	100.17	100.17	+0.10	6.95
Europe	293.10	312.80	+1.30	
Genesis	254.70	275.90	+7.50	2.00
High Income	22.73	24.14	+0.44	10.00
Japan Growth	72.79	76.72	-1.97	
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT 0345 090 983				
American Growth	85.53	87.81	-0.71	..
Equity Income #	147.80	151.90	+5.30	3.20
European	120.60	132.90	+2.50	
Smaller Cos	105.40	109.90	+1.70	1.37
W'wide Eqty	95.08	98.75	+0.63	
Global Bond	41.05	41.49	-0.17	4.62
UK Growth	152.30	156.70	+5.10	1.13
Pacific Growth	76.37	78.17	+2.03	2.08
Japan Growth	78.63	80.90	-1.51	
OEICS				
Portfolio Acc A ‡	52.57		+1.04	3.26
Portfolio Inc A ‡	52.57		+1.04	3.26
Gilt Acc A ‡	50.71		+0.09	6.03
Gilt Inc A ‡	50.71		+0.09	6.03
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Amm Equity	219.71	233.73	+8.40	1.53
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS 0171 623 4200				
Americas Dist	169.30	178.20	+0.80	0.01
European Dist	226.90	238.80	+5.80	0.18
Far East Dist	131.30	139.20	+2.30	0.05
Global Care Dist	117.70	123.90	+3.40	0.08
Opps Dist	1240.30	1305.60	+25.90	0.18
-do- Accum	1613.90	1698.80	+33.70	0.18
UK Dist	617.60	650.10	+20.50	1.18
-do- Accum	1285.40	1353.10	+42.60	1.18
UK Extra Inc Dist	126.40	133.10	+4.20	2.92
Wwde Dist	137.40	144.60	+2.80	0.11
Wwide Inc Dist	108.90	114.60	+2.30	1.48
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD Dlg: 0870 601 6142 Admin Enq: 0870 603 9188				
Europe Inc	117.90	124.43	+3.85	0.19
Fund of Funds Inc	85.86	90.62	+1.74	0.90
North America Inc	91.95	97.04	+2.41	
UK Equity Gth Inc	102.28	107.86	+4.64	1.08
-do- Accum	113.37	119.65	+5.15	1.96
UK General Inc	93.94	99.15	+3.04	1.10
-do- Accum	106.61	112.52	+3.45	1.10
UK Gilt/Fix Int Inc	50.41	53.08	+0.11	5.33
UK Income Inc	93.10	98.26	+3.73	1.86
UK Smlr Cos Inc	154.06	162.60	+2.37	1.01
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD Enquiries: 0800 614 330 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American	75.30	80.10	+1.57	
-do- Accum	75.68	80.72	+1.58	
Bond	137.19	145.70	+0.08	4.50
Cash Income	51.02	51.02	+0.05	6.64
-do- Accum	74.08	74.00	+0.08	6.64
Challenger	101.39	104.65	+1.55	1.07
Distributor	149.64	159.19	+4.88	1.72
European	93.20	99.14	+1.36	
Eqt Inc Gth	101.48	101.57	+0.76	2.46
Foundation	150.60	160.42	+5.47	0.63
General Inc	295.28	314.24	+6.01	1.02
General Acc	302.82	321.93	+6.16	1.02
Growth Inc	194.06	208.44	+6.69	0.77
Growth Acc	202.93	215.88	+7.00	0.77
Higher Income Inc	49.35	52.43	+1.90	3.55
-do- Accum	63.61	67.66	+2.45	3.55
High Yield Bond #	105.09	105.09		7.20
Income	393.31	424.79	+8.66	2.18
Intnpd	189.65	197.76	+2.06	0.99
Intl Gwth	48.10	52.23	+0.45	
Japan	23.49	24.99	-0.44	
Oriental Inc	120.37	128.05	+3.42	0.56
-do- Accum	124.80	132.76	+3.54	0.56
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD 0191 285 2565				
High Income #	63.06	66.73	+1.63	4.82
UK Growth	150.90	159.70	+2.20	2.25
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS 01603 682 234				
Master Trust	176.33	185.61	+4.23	1.18
UK Equity	243.10	255.90	+8.84	2.00
UK Equity Income #	214.11	225.38	+8.13	4.07
UK Smaller Cos	186.21	196.01	+4.08	1.22
UK Equity Growth	204.74	215.52	+4.54	0.65
UK Index Trckg	242.62	256.27	+7.62	1.61
Intl Index Trckg	213.57	225.40	+2.81	0.51
International	342.81	360.64	+6.67	0.70
European	381.18	401.24	+7.57	0.01
Pan European	247.42	260.44	+6.12	0.71
Nth American	345.19	363.36	+6.23	0.03
N Amer Smlr Cos	376.97	396.81	+7.98	
Japanese	67.12	70.65	-1.44	1.18
Pacific	167.26	176.06	+1.63	0.92
South East Asian	183.14	192.78	+4.85	1.61
Sterling Bond	111.63	117.50	+0.12	5.75
Intl Bond	122.41	128.85	-0.15	4.48
Gilt & Convertible	121.13	127.51	+0.19	5.57
Property	95.84	100.88	+9.48	5.07
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD 01256 768 888				
European Inc	515.20	550.40	+7.10	
-do- Accum	547.60	585.10	+7.60	
Japan Inc	72.80	77.10	-2.06	
Nth American Inc	228.40	241.30	+6.30	
Worldwide Inc	238.20	252.80	+4.20	
HK & China Inc	154.00	165.30	-6.50	1.57
Swiss Equities Inc	137.60	146.30	-0.60	
Worldw Bond Inc	67.78	71.60		3.27
Emerging Asia Inc	124.30	133.70	+2.70	1.76
-do- Accum	125.30	134.70	+2.80	1.76
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.35	50.35	+0.05	6.68
Thailand Inc	50.99	55.36	-0.92	1.60
New Zealand Inc	80.41	88.67		1.94
Int Mngd PEP Inc	96.60	102.30	+2.00	0.21
Latin Am Comp Inc	82.29	86.05	+1.79	0.80
UK All St Mkt Inc	104.00	102.70	+3.31	1.59
Broker Unit Trusts				
Way Global Blue	98.23	104.50	+1.50	0.55
Global Portfolio	84.62	90.50	+3.14	
Way Global Res	74.73	79.50	+1.30	0.30
Marsh Global Gth	72.68	77.07	+1.59	0.09
AMR Brit Gwth Inc	158.90	170.10	+6.50	0.64
Temple Equity Inc	60.19	64.80	+2.28	1.21
Hartley Growth	178.60	190.00	+2.50	0.27
Intl Growth Inc	73.83	78.96		
IPS Portfolio Inc	118.30	125.30	+0.20	
Roxburgh Strat Gth	77.19	82.56		0.17
UFC Growth	79.38	84.90	+1.02	1.07
Chatfield Port of Fds	58.08	61.62	+0.59	0.12
Pyg Intl Equity	92.36	98.78	+1.36	0.12
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	408.90	435.00	+15.50	1.10
-do- Accum	921.90	980.70	+34.90	1.10
Growth	265.80	279.80	+9.70	1.45
Income	387.90	412.70	+15.00	2.77
Intl Equity	343.50	365.30	+7.00	0.22
-do- Accum	385.70	410.30	+7.80	0.22
Equity Income #	103.20	109.70	+2.50	4.80
Equity Growth	139.90	147.80	+5.20	0.93
New Europe	151.40	161.00	+2.70	
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT 01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	880.52	940.32	+17.46	0.28
-do- Accum	889.62	950.04	+17.64	0.28
Income #	673.92	720.78	+21.10	3.89
Wwide Recovery	573.91	613.34	-7.85	0.24
Amer Growth Inc	414.53	440.29	+9.16	0.01
-do- Accum	414.53	440.29	+9.16	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	336.51	359.91	+4.88	0.01
Far East Gwth Inc	238.20	254.77	+4.39	1.34
-do- Accum	243.00	259.90	+4.47	1.34
Euro Gwth Inc	288.63	307.78	+7.06	0.01
-do- Accum	289.63	308.85	+7.09	0.01
UK Growth Inc	164.28	175.71	-5.15	2.25
-do- Accum	183.99	196.79	-5.77	2.25
High Income #	174.19	186.31	+5.29	3.39
Jap Gwth Inc	137.04	146.43	-3.86	0.51
-do- Accum	137.04	146.43	-3.86	0.51
PEP Bond	67.48	70.52	+0.23	6.53
PEP Growth	193.42	206.57	+4.26	0.39
Asian Sit Mkt Inc	93.28	99.71	+4.46	0.01
-do- Accum	93.22	99.71	+4.51	0.01
Amer Smlr Co Inc	266.65	283.72	+3.84	0.01
-do- Accum	266.63	283.72	+3.84	0.01
Global Bond	53.52	56.74	+0.19	4.82
UK Smaller Cos Inc	131.67	140.83	+2.02	1.91
-do- Accum	142.62	152.54	+2.19	1.91
Lat Am Gwth Inc	40.49	43.15	-1.10	0.07
-do- Accum	41.14	43.84	+1.11	0.07
Bond Inc PEP #	54.04	57.19	+1.10	3.50
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0191 201 3927				
American	181.36	192.94	-1.24	..
European	137.87	146.67	+2.30	
Global	59.02	62.79	+0.17	
Pacific	41.47	43.95	+0.73	
UK Inc & Gth	109.59	116.58	-2.73	1.03
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD Enq 0171 638 0808 Dlg 0171 588 8890				
Asia	42.97	45.73	-1.38	
Emerg Mkts	43.57	46.23	-1.34	0.35
Euro Fund	58.81	62.49	+2.91	
Fund of Funds	239.00	254.60	+4.40	0.02
High Income #	65.69	69.35	+1.07	5.05
Performance	58.66	62.24	+1.02	
PREMIER PORTFOLIO MGRS LTD 01483 456 832				
Special Sits	259.60	277.60	+7.20	0.34
Dividend	146.64	156.60	+4.90	3.19
Intl Gth & Inc	308.90	329.80	+4.10	0.55
UK & Gen	65.48	74.31	+2.46	0.32
Fund of Funds	89.78	96.02	+1.57	
Pat Growth	57.43	64.73	+1.02	0.08
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	237.74	246.78	+6.41	2.21

For Profile UT see Aberdeen Prolific UT

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD UT Dealing 0345 406000 Dlgs Enq 0345 825500				
Managed Tst	50.01	52.01	-1.12	1.76
Cash Funds Inc	101.33	101.33	+0.13	6.34
Cash Funds Acc	126.74	127.36	+0.12	6.34
[illegible]	[illegible]	153.70	+3.17	4.22
[illegible]	[illegible]	164.13	+4.19	4.22
Global Growth	[illegible]	162.70	+2.64	1.34
Equity Inc	177.51	187.81	+1.82	3.54
Equity	[illegible]	[illegible]	+30.79	1.41
European	410.73	439.52	+5.33	0.21
[illegible]	[illegible]	122.43	+2.53	4.11
Intl Gth	233.09	249.95	+4.65	0.81
Intl Sm Co	109.26	115.24	-1.86	0.83
Japanese	123.68	128.17	-2.44	
Mngd Income Tst #	57.30	53.88	+0.13	7.17
Nat Rsrces	354.27	366.49	-1.33	0.57
Pacific Mkts	87.73	90.91	+2.11	1.67
Premier Inc	57.38	59.47	+0.08	5.87
Smlr Cos	132.26	140.70	+3.77	1.52
Spec Sit	172.33	183.29	+5.51	1.54
UK Growth	211.35	224.84	+6.86	1.44
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD 0171 556 8800				
Hi Inc Inc	113.77	119.52	+3.00	3.01
Investment Trust	146.34	154.41	+3.72	0.32
UK Smaller Cos	135.34	142.31	+2.88	1.79
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD 01892 510 033				
[illegible]	50.99	53.30	+0.76	[illegible]
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT Dealers 0171 623 1300 Client Services 0800 124 314				
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	58.64	62.35	+1.41	
Cash	49.73	51.93	+1.35	5.44
Emerging Mkts	47.93	50.05	+0.36	
[illegible]	52.97	56.01	-1.53	
Global Fixed Int #	49.73	51.93	-0.15	4.42

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japan	28.98	30.76	-0.59	
North America	94.68	98.88	+0.80	
UK	93.60	97.75	+3.81	
UK Equity Inc #	84.62	88.37	+2.39	2.84
UK Fixed Int #	55.88	58.36	+0.17	6.32
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Gth Port	66.90	69.32	+1.50	...
Pep Inc Port #	67.77	70.22	+1.58	2.72
Five Arrows Global Investment Funds				
A Shares				
Asian Opps ‡	40.10		+0.43	
Asia Pacific ‡	37.79		+0.61	0.62
Europe ‡	54.93		+0.26	..
Japan ‡	39.05		-0.98	
Latin America ‡	41.53		+0.49	
North America ‡	58.41		+1.43	
UK Eq Income #	59.58		+2.26	3.36
UK Major Cos ‡	58.79		+2.36	0.58
UK Smaller Cos ‡	62.73		+1.26	0.62
ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE UT MGMT LTD Enq: 0870 601 8183 Dealing: 0870 601 6093				
Royal & Sun Alliance Trusts				
Equity	1620.00	1714.00	+59.00	...
Equity Income #	162.30	171.90	+5.88	3.49
European	258.40	273.40	+2.30	
High Inc Bond	52.10	52.18		6.69
Portfolio	151.10	159.80	+3.40	0.94
UK Index Trckg	289.70	306.50	+9.40	2.45
UK Leading Cos	122.60	129.70	+3.59	1.63
UK Smaller Cos	156.70	165.80	+4.50	1.05
Royal Life Trusts				
High Inc Dist	237.50	253.00	+6.20	2.59
Intl Cautionary	71.94	76.46	+0.60	4.01
Intl Growth	99.80	105.60	+1.80	
Intl Spec	89.81	95.54	+1.80	
Managed	244.10	262.40	+5.80	
Pacific Basin	62.75	66.87	+0.75	0.57
United States	195.30	206.60	+3.00	0.26
Sun Alliance Trusts				
European	218.60	233.70	+1.90	..
Far East	131.20	138.80	+1.50	..
North America	283.00	302.60	+4.40	
Wwide Bond	55.31	58.13	-0.11	4.51
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01206 764 400				
American Growth	278.30	295.10	+1.90	0.02
European Growth	238.30	252.90	+5.00	0.86
Far East Growth	107.40	114.30	+4.00	2.45
Japan Growth	85.15	90.58	-1.03	0.62
Special Sits	282.40	300.40	+4.70	1.77
UK Growth	147.20	156.50	+4.50	2.14
Intl Growth	357.60	380.50	+6.80	1.63
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD 0141 307 6500				
Far East Inc	122.50	129.60	+2.70	0.86
Gt Euro Prog Inc	628.90	665.50	+14.20	0.60
-do- Accum	994.10	1052.00	+23.00	0.60
Growth Inc	204.40	216.30	+4.30	0.47
-do- Accum	210.50	222.70	+4.50	0.47
International Inc	547.70	579.60	+11.40	0.80
-do- Accum	759.80	804.00	+15.90	0.80
Nth Am & Intl Inc	570.10	603.30	+5.60	0.85
UK Gen Prog Inc	365.10	386.20	+11.80	1.10
-do- Accum	429.50	454.54	+13.74	1.10
UK High Inc Inc	208.50	220.60	+9.10	3.66
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD 0171 330 0572				
Asian Gwth	64.82	68.70		0.75
European Gwth	138.00	145.80	+1.97	1.00
Global Bd	59.69	63.05	-0.21	5.00
Japan	43.36	45.74		
UK Gwth	123.56	131.45	+3.95	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770				
Amer Smlr Cos	191.90	204.20	+1.90	...
Cash	145.40	145.40	+0.20	6.84
China Dragon	62.68	68.68	+2.27	0.38
Commodity	112.80	120.00	-0.50	...
Emerging Mkts	39.67	42.20	+0.87	0.40
Europe Gwth	352.50	375.00	+5.70	...
Euro Smllr Cos	94.28	100.30	+1.63	...
Extra Income #	74.24	76.93	+1.75	4.55
Far Eastern	74.19	78.93	+0.30	..
FE Sm Cos	36.30	38.62	-0.43	0.29
Financial Secs	500.40	532.30	+13.70	0.71
Gold & Exploration	38.60	38.03	-1.86	
Growth	631.60	634.60	+19.30	0.41
High Income	54.17	54.17	-0.06	7.06
Intl Bond	155.90	164.80	-0.70	5.11
ITU	298.90	318.00	+8.70	0.49
Japan Growth	113.70	120.70	-3.50	
Japan Smaller	95.32	101.40	-3.78	
Korea	21.57	22.95	+0.20	
Latin America	30.62	33.65	+0.97	0.37
Masterfund	82.28	82.69	+1.90	0.75
Premier Eq Gwth	250.60	266.60	+8.40	0.88
Premier Eq Inc #	529.50	563.30	+20.10	3.33
SE Asia	33.62	35.77	+0.98	0.85
Southern Africa	50.81	54.05	-0.16	1.01
UK & O'seas	258.90	275.40	+5.00	0.61
UK Eqty Gth	124.10	132.00	+4.89	0.88
UK Eqty Inc #	376.30	400.30	+13.60	3.25
UK Gth & Inc #	448.70	477.30	+18.40	2.15
UK Sm Cos	75.80	80.64	+1.75	0.80
US Growth	319.70	340.10	+3.30	..
New Europe ‡	57.08	...	-0.30	
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD Clnt: 0800 526 535 Brkr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	486.23	513.59	+8.78	0.47
-do- Accum	541.42	571.90	+9.78	0.47
European Gwth	131.49	139.21	+2.53	0.26
Euro Smllr Cos	147.02	156.20	+3.59	0.02
-do- Accum	149.14	158.48	+3.62	0.02
Far Eastern Gth	88.83	94.75	+1.71	0.15
-do- Accum	90.63	96.67	+1.74	0.15
Gilt & Fixed Int #	57.53	60.60	+0.12	7.08
Global Bond #	44.60	46.14	-0.15	5.95
-do- Accum #	57.48	59.39	-0.20	5.95
Global Emer Mkts	49.25	52.53	+0.68	0.01
-do- Accum	49.30	52.58	+0.67	0.01
Income #	581.73	620.51	+28.22	3.85
-do- Accum #	2083.47	2222.39	+72.43	3.85
Japan Smllr Cos	212.57	226.74	-6.61	
-do- Accum	213.00	227.19	-6.62	
Japan Enterprise	46.29	49.37	-1.31	
Pacific Gwth	109.03	116.08	+4.38	0.93
-do- Accum	114.21	121.82	+4.60	0.93
Portfolio	120.05	128.07	+3.25	1.61
-do- Accum	136.45	145.53	+3.69	1.61
Small	17.73	18.93	+0.27	0.72
-do- Accum	17.75	18.93	+0.27	0.72
Strategic Inc	125.44	133.62	+2.99	1.81
Strategic Acc	129.44	137.77	+3.08	1.81
Tokyo	100.05	106.71	-2.46	...
-do- Accum	101.06	107.79	-2.48	...
UK Enterprise	464.59	495.46	+18.48	1.73
-do- Accum	592.46	631.96	+23.58	1.73
UK Equity	429.94	457.96	+14.70	1.86
-do- Accum	803.54	853.11	+30.60	1.86
UK Smaller Cos	451.45	481.54	+18.85	0.81
-do- Accum	542.30	578.45	+20.00	0.81
US Smllr Cos	365.26	389.63	+7.98	..
-do- Accum	365.26	389.63	+7.98	..
Institutional Funds				
European	426.39	441.73	+8.41	0.87
-do- Accum	488.09	505.65	+7.34	0.87
Euro Smllr Cos	46.64	48.54	+1.03	0.77
-do- Accum	50.98	53.06	+1.13	0.77
Global Equity Inc	113.49	117.79	+0.83	0.63
Japan Smllr Cos	20.88	21.74	-0.64	0.25
-do- Accum	21.11	21.98	-0.64	0.25
Mngd Balanced	275.06	286.45	+6.10	2.73
-do- Accum	336.67	350.00	+7.46	2.73
Overseas Equity	240.74	250.31	+1.67	0.83
-do- Accum	255.80	265.96	+1.77	0.83
Overseas Smllr Cos	137.27	142.96	+1.33	0.73
-do- Accum	148.72	152.79	+1.42	0.73
Pacific	185.83	193.67	+6.13	2.41
-do- Accum	210.46	219.24	+6.93	2.41
Recovery	2112.47	2242.15	-74.03	2.56
-do- Accum	3555.29	3703.42	+84.55	2.56
UK Index	267.28	278.41	+8.74	2.45
-do- Accum	357.48	372.37	+11.70	2.45
UK Small Cos	178.15	185.57	+5.85	2.34
-do- Accum	203.78	212.27	+6.78	2.34
US Smllr Cos	88.13	91.56	+1.56	0.34
-do- Accum	91.02	94.56	+1.61	0.34
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD 0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	86.52	91.49	+2.88	1.87
Equity Trust	114.16	120.72	+1.79	1.97
Equity Strategy	116.30	122.99	+4.02	0.53
European Opps	153.77	162.61	+2.10	0.22
UK Smaller Cos	94.46	99.89	+2.77	1.02
Maximum Inc	98.95	101.52	-0.10	5.96
Japanese	47.34	50.06	-1.21	0.08
Asia Pacific	87.70	92.74	+1.89	1.40
American	198.70	209.57	+4.32	0.48
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD 0800 454 422				
Cash	35.70	35.70	+0.04	6.98
UK Eq Gwth Inc	87.63	92.84	+3.43	2.12
-do- Accum	122.03	129.10	+4.77	2.12
Intl Income	379.51	404.48	+6.38	1.31
-do- Accum	680.00	724.75	+15.01	1.31
European	155.40	165.25	+3.48	0.84
Japan	46.66	49.45	-1.14	
American	149.21	157.73	+2.43	0.75
Far East Tspt	65.85	70.24	+1.69	1.94
Ethical Inc	51.86	55.48	+1.13	1.39
-do- Accum	61.10	65.34	+1.34	1.39
UK Blue Chip Inc	57.85	61.79	+2.06	2.08
-do- Accum	72.13	77.04	+2.57	2.08
UK Equity Inc	62.00	66.13	+2.68	3.19
-do- Accum	94.10	100.37	+4.07	3.19
UK Global Inc	66.48	70.93	+1.68	1.34
-do- Accum	74.27	79.24	+1.89	1.34
Mixed Tact	111.75	119.14	+2.33	0.99
Europa Tactical	115.58	123.40	+3.57	0.48
Technology	205.41	217.96	+5.00	0.41
Dist Inc #	31.57	33.49	+0.59	5.04
-do- Accum	34.00	36.07	+0.64	5.04
UK Ext Inc Inc	26.41	27.89	-0.04	6.95
-do- Accum	29.53	31.19	-0.04	6.95
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	739.60	778.90	+26.60	1.49
American	493.40	522.30	+7.20	0.15
Pacific	304.10	325.20	+8.30	0.34
European	908.60	970.90	+7.50	0.45
Worldwide	105.60	112.60	+1.90	0.16
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD 0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	478.50	509.00	+19.20	1.51
-do- Accum	648.10	689.40	+26.00	1.51
UK Str Co Eq Inc	308.30	327.90	+8.20	1.62
-do- Accum	385.90	410.50	+10.30	1.62
Select Opptny Inc	117.50	125.60	+4.40	1.40
Income Plus Inc	123.70	131.50	+5.30	3.12
European Inc	622.50	661.00	+9.40	0.49
-do- Accum	722.20	766.90	+9.80	0.49
Far Eastern Inc	128.50	136.70	+4.97	1.35
-do- Accum	150.50	160.10	+5.50	1.35
Japanese Inc	42.86	45.38	-1.20	
Nth American Inc	498.50	529.10	+8.50	0.03
-do- Accum	552.30	586.10	+9.50	0.03
Intl Growth Inc	258.90	275.40	+2.70	0.31
Wwide Venture Inc	114.50	121.70	+1.20	0.46
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT 0131 655 3724				
Equity Inc	622.30	657.50	+17.90	1.75
-do- Accum	974.50	1030.00	+28.00	1.75
UK High Inc #	300.40	317.40	+8.30	2.77
-do- Accum #	480.20	507.30	+13.30	2.77
Europe Inc	693.10	732.30	+10.20	0.33
NO Amr Inc	438.40	464.10	+1.40	
Global Inc	314.70	332.40	+3.00	0.39
Global Acc	341.60	360.90	+2.20	0.39
UK Spec Sits Inc	172.70	182.50	+4.60	1.56
South East Asia	144.60	152.70	+4.30	0.75
Cash Trust Inc	101.60	101.60	+0.10	5.69
UK Smlr Cos Inc	145.80	154.00	+2.70	1.72
-do- Accum	156.90	165.80	+3.00	1.72
Intl Bond Inc	87.82	92.22	-0.05	3.28
International Strat	97.65	103.40	+1.50	
SHARP (ALBERT E) Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	232.00	244.20	+3.70	0.15
Nth American	187.30	197.20	+1.30	
Intl Bond & Conv	138.50	145.70	-0.10	5.48
Pooled Pension	317.70	341.60	+8.50	1.86
Scottish Cos	153.70	161.80	-2.10	0.85
UK General #	226.40	240.40	+7.70	1.72
Far Eastern	62.82	66.14	-1.06	0.89
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD 0171 626 6226				
Continental	133.70	141.10	+1.80	0.60
Global Gwth	101.70	107.40	+1.90	0.50
Inv Tst Port	73.13	77.19	+2.80	1.90
Managed	1720.67	1801.92	+26.46	2.10

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pref Inc #	117.60	124.40	+1.40	8.00
Smaller Cos	320.30	340.10	+11.40	0.80
Ireland SIB Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	173.14		+4.23	3.85
Sterling Reserve ‡	102.92		+0.11	7.00
Corporate Inc ‡	109.19		+1.22	8.00
Tai Pan ‡	93.82		+3.92	
Aztec ‡	32.44		+2.03	..
Amer Gth Fund ‡	189.68		+3.00	
European ‡	236.79		+3.58	
Global Bond ‡	91.21		-0.10	6.25
Samurai ‡	40.22		-1.48	
UK Growth ‡	143.67		-5.27	2.59
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	109.13		+2.22	2.55
Investment Trust ‡	139.56		+4.51	2.59
The Football Fd ‡	83.43		+0.11	
Reserve Roll Up ‡	104.09		-0.01	
Gmt Reserve ‡	98.50		-0.06	3.72
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS 0171 637 5377				
American	634.70	670.60	+7.60	
Capital	192.70	203.90	+4.70	0.84
Cash	100.08	100.08	-2.57	6.78
European	220.90	233.60	+2.89	0.15
Far Eastern	134.20	142.07	+1.89	
Growth	233.30	246.80	+6.00	1.05
Income #	187.90	198.80	+4.90	4.59
Magnum	197.40	208.80	+4.50	1.01
Smlr Secs	777.80	823.00	+33.10	
Thoroughbred	231.10	244.50	+5.20	1.02
SOCIETE GENERALE UNIT TRUSTS LTD Dealing Desk 0171 815 0062				
UK Growth Acc	98.54	102.70	+2.70	1.50
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0800 73 11 093				
Capital Princess	65.81	70.34	+1.19	6.50
Ethical	102.70	108.80	+4.90	0.87
European Growth	118.50	126.70	+2.70	
Income #	81.22	86.86	+2.88	3.79
Intl Growth	133.60	140.90	+2.00	0.12
Managed	123.40	130.70	+2.80	0.06
UK Growth	97.90	104.70	+3.90	1.07
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS 0800 33 33 53				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	57.96	58.25	+1.21	0.91
Global Advtg Acc	63.89	64.21	+1.32	0.91
Income Advtg Inc	50.89	51.14	+1.87	2.58
Income Advtg Acc	62.06	62.38	+2.28	2.58
UK Equity Gth Acc	152.20	161.48	+9.10	0.69
Premier Inc Inc	54.20	56.10		5.98
Premier Inc Acc	63.11	65.32		5.98
Managed Acc	79.69	84.48	+1.72	1.66
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	59.96	63.56	+2.11	3.36
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	82.86	87.84	+2.91	3.36
UK Ethical	51.51	53.32	+2.14	1.13
UK Smlr Cos Acc	68.85	72.99	+3.15	0.18
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	117.50	124.90	+4.00	1.18
UK Equity Gen Inc	82.71	87.88	+2.82	1.18
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	35.30	37.33	-0.01	5.94
Grwth Lrg Co Acc	413.90	448.10	+3.60	1.91
Nth American Acc	82.39	87.54	+0.86	0.08
Pacific Basin	33.48	35.58	+1.04	1.40
European Acc	78.95	83.89	+1.09	
Japan Acc	20.43	21.71	-0.35	
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD 0171 344 7000				
Global A (NZS)	5.791	6.057	+0.11	1.76
US Eqts (US$)	4.915	5.203	+0.04	0.62
Far East Eqts (yen)	230.70	245.10	-3.00	
FT Europe	229.00	241.10	+1.50	0.99
FT N Amer (US$)	4.345	4.615	+0.09	..
FT Japan (yen)	138.10	146.00		
FT Asia Ex Jap (US$)	2.310	2.453	+0.06	0.97
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0131 226 3271				
American	693.20	731.80	+6.00	
British #	1796.50	1900.70	+80.50	1.95
Emerging Mkts	170.10	181.10	+4.70	0.81
Euro Gwth Inc	139.70	149.00	+2.20	...
Euro Small Co	72.72	77.37	+2.28	
Japan	84.37	89.58	-2.23	
Asia Pacific	348.40	371.00	+9.90	1.61
-do- Accum	379.10	403.60	+10.70	1.61
Inv Trust Acc	380.80	403.70	+12.60	0.90
Mngd Equity	266.40	281.80	+7.50	1.74
Mngd Cash	95.46	95.46	+0.10	6.84
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD 0800 825 725				
Asia Pacific	16.57	17.63	+0.50	1.11
Corp Bd Gilt Inc	105.36	112.08	+0.11	6
Corp Bd & Gilt Acc	119.76	127.40	+0.13	6
European	76.75	81.65	+1.76	0.26
Japan	25.56	27.19	-0.76	0.01
Managed Assets	186.82	199.81	+4.72	1.82
North American	66.20	70.43	+1.10	0.23
Smlr Co's Inc	46.25	49.20	+0.74	1.32
Smlr Co's Acc	51.74	55.04	+0.82	1.32
UK Growth Inc	93.66	99.64	+3.29	1.47
UK Growth Acc	108.94	115.89	+3.83	1.47
Extra Income #	64.90	69.41	+2.41	3.89
Worldwide Gth	52.72	56.39	+1.32	0.30
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD Enquiries: 0117 989 9000				
Discretionary	68.25	72.61	+1.31	
UK Income Inc	89.25	94.95	+3.83	2.16
Mngd Exp Inc Inc #	42.37	44.76	+0.66	5.90
Mngd Hgh Yld Inc	128.70	136.90	+5.00	3.09
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	120.50	128.10	+3.90	2.23
UK Smaller Cos	49.38	52.53	+0.97	1.72
Pacific Gth Port	37.04	39.40	+0.86	0.64
TSB UNIT TRUSTS 01264 346 794				
American	441.22	469.80	+9.61	1.03
-do- Accum	485.98	514.27	+10.59	1.00
Brit Growth	180.12	190.68	+5.35	1.18
-do- Accum	228.98	242.31	+7.60	1.18
European	183.72	194.41	+4.49	1.36
-do- Accum	196.23	207.65	+4.80	1.36
Extra Income #	305.15	322.91	+11.89	3.46
-do- Accum #	590.30	624.65	+22.99	3.46
Smaller Cos	108.81	115.15	+2.03	0.75
-do- Accum	125.91	133.24	+2.35	0.75
General	517.39	547.41	+16.80	1.33
-do- Accum	1130.48	1196.27	+36.31	1.33
Frontier Income	58.51	59.86	+0.64	5.35
-do- Accum	152.54	159.89	+0.10	5.35
Income #	553.32	585.52	+18.88	3.19
-do- Accum #	[illegible]	4438.11	[illegible]	3.19
Pacific	274.50	290.47	+5.48	0.51
-do- Accum	288.43	305.21	+5.75	0.51
International	806.12	855.15	+18.02	0.23
-do- Accum	1067.87	1130.02	+23.82	0.23
Nat Resources	126.84	134.23	-0.78	0.90
Shield Opps	187.17	198.08	+6.35	1.02
-do- Accum	249.60	264.02	+8.46	1.02
Environmental Inv	126.56	133.95	+4.19	0.72
Selector	103.44	108.46	+3.12	1.25
-do- Accum	122.31	129.43	+3.89	1.25
High Income #	98.53	104.26	+3.38	3.30
-do- Accum #	141.76	150.01	+4.86	3.30
Intl Income	64.97	68.75	-0.63	3.86
-do- Accum	91.43	96.75	+0.57	3.86
Selector Income	87.95	93.07	+2.32	3.35
-do- Accum	115.86	122.60	+3.05	3.35
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED 0800 435810				
British	595.11	626.43	+19.18	1.74
European	120.57	126.26	+4.65	1.17
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	289.30	305.22	+6.44	2.56
Glob Growth Acc	342.25	362.17	+7.62	2.56
Glob Balncd Inc	230.10	243.49	+3.55	3.80
Glob Balncd Acc	287.99	304.75	+4.44	3.80
Value Tst Inc	180.61	191.13	+3.49	1.92
Value Tst Acc	205.86	217.85	+3.98	1.92
THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 628 0882				
Capital	132.50	141.00	+4.70	0.50
International	86.40	91.91	-1.45	
THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS Client Serv: 0800 0683000 Intr Serv: 0800 0684000				
Threadneedle Investment Services				
Managed Funds				
Adv Mgd Gth Acc	54.82	57.19	+1.51	0.89
Bal Mgd Gth Acc	54.82	57.40	+1.28	2.63
Caut Mg Gth Acc	56.00	57.58	+1.12	4.14
Managed Income	55.23	57.83	+1.35	3.66
Threadneedle Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Retail Shares (Class 1)				
UK				
UK Corporate Bd ‡	52.89	†	+0.06	6.56
UK Equity Inc #	61.55	†	+2.08	3.56
UK Growth ‡	61.02	†	+2.15	1.34
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	56.20	†	+1.71	2.40
UK Money Secs ‡	50.20	†	+0.07	7.07
UK Monthly Inc #	57.19	†	+2.02	3.65
UK Select Gwth ‡	61.35	†	+2.31	1.51
UK Smaller Cos ‡	59.15	†	+1.71	0.91
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	55.10	†	+1.55	0.10
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	57.04	†	+1.85	0.04
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	58.30	†	+1.59	
Asia Growth ‡	35.83	†	+0.72	0.19
Emg Mkt Bd Fd ‡	54.30	†	+0.67	8.50
European Growth ‡	62.35	†	+1.05	0.06
Euro Sel Gwth ‡	59.41	†	+0.99	0.06
Euro Sm Cos Gth †	61.82	†	+0.89	
FE&Jap Gwth Acc ‡	34.06	†	+0.07	
Global Bond ‡	51.81	†	+0.06	5.89
Glo Sel Gth Acc ‡	52.19	†	+0.56	0.11
Japan Gwth Acc ‡	35.59	†	-0.84	
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	51.48	†	-1.88	
Latin Amer Gth ‡	52.11	†	+1.04	
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (£500,000 min)				
UK				
UK Equity Inc #	61.55	†	+2.06	4.20
UK Growth ‡	61.03	†	+2.16	1.89
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	56.20	†	+1.71	2.89
UK Intl Gwth ‡	61.06	†	+1.98	1.70
UK Opps Eqty ‡	58.45	†	+1.54	1.00
UK Select Gwth ‡	61.36	†	+2.31	2.07
UK Sm Cos Gwth ‡	59.15	†	+1.71	1.44
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	55.25	†	+1.55	0.60
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	57.21	†	+1.67	0.54
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	58.39	†	+1.61	
Asia Growth Acc ‡	35.96	†	+0.73	0.69
Euro Gwth Acc ‡	62.51	†	+1.06	0.56
Euro Sel Gth Acc ‡	59.56	†	+1.00	0.56
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	61.91	†	+0.89	
FE & Jap Gth Acc ‡	34.74	†	+0.07	
Global Bond ‡	51.66	†	+0.07	5.39
Japan Growth Acc ‡	35.69	†	-0.84	
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	51.53	†	-1.87	
Latin Amer Gth ‡	52.15	†	+1.05	
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD 01277 690 336				
UK Eq Inc Acc #	480.32	510.98	+16.07	3.20
UK Equity Gwth	519.66	552.83	+18.05	1.35
European	270.79	288.07	+6.00	0.25
Nth American	125.66	133.68	+2.32	0.03
Far Eastern	58.37	62.05	-0.02	0.35
Money	76.52	76.52	+0.08	6.66
Fixed Interest #	92.60	96.28	+0.10	7.11
Index Linked Gilt	84.19	89.29	+0.51	1.29
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD 0345 950505				
Income Trust	115.57	115.57	+0.39	5.70
Pens Growth	146.63	146.63	+4.35	
Pens Inc Protct	117.26	117.26	+0.39	
UK Index Tracking @	186.63	186.63	+4.47	1.50
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0161 831 7455				
Australasian Gold	14.38	15.14		
Pacific Basin	23.39	24.62		
Global Bond (US$)	0.9754	1.0169		
Penny Share	45.61	48.01		
Japan Smlr Cos	27.22	28.65		
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 623 2444				
Short Dtd Gilt	132.50	133.90	+0.10	
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8291	0.8316	+0.00	
Gilt Income	52.70	50.81	-0.64	6.10
Gilt Growth	89.94	91.33	+0.01	
Sterling Bond	52.89	53.57	-0.05	5.90
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	71.91	76.34	+0.87	1.55
UK Stockmarket	145.10	154.20	+4.18	1.85
Corporate Bd Inc	51.27	51.38	+0.10	5.23
Do Accum	56.97	57.08	+0.12	5.23

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return) † Ex dividend, ‡ Middle price; .. No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit Charge.



LEAD TUGGED 50

Why the Virgin Pep advertisement had to be pulled

WEEKEND MONEY

WARRANTY WOES 57

Cut out the middleman on your car cover



Cheap deals for new shareholders

Karen Woolfson explains the process that is involved in using the popular 'execution-only' stockbroking firms



UNITED ARTISTS

If you are down on your uppers, brokers will advise you not to invest more than you can afford

Britain's new shareholders do not have to pay for a broker to give them advice or manage their portfolio; they now have the option to buy and sell shares cheaply through one of the "execution-only" services. Brokers who offer these services will transact business when instructed to do so without offering guidance to the client, making dealing straightforward with no personal contact.

This advice-free method is suitable for people who want to buy and sell their windfall shares or who hold one or two shares, probably companies that have been privatised. If they start taking a greater interest in stocks at a later stage, they may want to take advice which will cost more, but it is a wise move for the inexperienced who want to put "serious" money in shares.

Gavin Oldham, chief executive of The Share Centre, offers a particularly attractive service to shareholders who can do all their transactions over the phone or by post. The minimum commission for buying FTSE 100 and privatisation shares over the phone is just £2.50, so a shareholder who buys £250 worth of shares will be subject only to this minimum amount which makes dealing more attractive. The minimum commission on selling these shares is £7.50 which you would pay on a sale of £750 worth.

These low charges make it worthwhile for investors to put relatively small sums of money into the stock market and to spread the risk by holding a number of shares in their portfolio rather than one or two because the cost of dealing prohibits the number of transactions they undertake. There is an administration charge on top of the commission which is £2.50 plus VAT per holding which is levied every six months and stamp duty is charged on each share purchased.

Mr Oldham said: "We have a very low minimum commission because we believe a number of investors want to start off investing a small amount of money. If they have £3,000, for example, it means they can still own a few shareholdings which protects the investor's risk profile and this is a better base on which to build up their interests." He thinks this approach helps people to develop a taste for share dealing as time goes by.

But the industry took a severe knock when the former stockbroker Fidelity Brokerage Services (FBS) recently decided to pull out of the execution-only market, after a review of its growth in this business failed to meet expectations. FBS was not helped by serious administration problems experienced in 1996 which resulted in the Financial Services Authority banning it from doing new business between October 1996 and April 1997. To make matters worse, the company was fined £250,000, all of which led to its demise. FBS recommended customers move to Barclays Stockbrokers, which some did, but the exercise caused some anxiety.

Mr Oldham says there are dangers in all business procedures. He said: "This is such a dynamic and fast moving field, one has to be alert to what's happening all the time. It's important that we have strong regulation in this business, so that accounting is up-to-date and properly reconciled; sufficient funds are in the business; and the conduct of business is being done in the best interests of customers."

He emphasises that the regulators do not act so much as a policeman, but keep an eye on things so that if a business falls down on requirements then it can be pulled up in the early stages. The FSA is there to monitor the company side of the business and the investor is responsible for studying his choices and taking a suitable option.

Brokers advise people not to invest more than they can afford and to ensure that if they are playing the markets for the first time, they experiment with money that is in excess of what they need for everyday use; in other words, savings they will not miss unduly if they have the misfortune to choose a portfolio of losing stocks.

However, The Share Centre's particularly favourable charges offered to people who invest in blue chip companies and privatisations is helping to channel inexperienced shareholders into lower-risk stocks, which may not yield very high returns but are a safer bet than smaller companies.

A range of computer software and the Internet have made it much easier for people to gain access to stock information and real-time prices to make informed decisions on whether to buy, sell or hold. However, investors should be aware of the drawbacks of using a service without advice. Richard Lock, manager of Charles Stanley & Co's execution-only service, The Gold Dealing Card, said: "If you're too busy, you many not have time to monitor your investments so you may not be wise to what's going on in the markets and it may be better to opt for an advice service. If it's spare cash you don't mind playing with, it doesn't matter so much."

To use Charles Stanley & Co's service, a potential client just rings the company for information about execution-only transactions. The company then sends details of costs, terms and conditions plus an application form. Once this has been filled out and returned, an account will be opened within 24 hours and a Gold Dealing Card is sent with an account number and the dealing telephone number.

You can open a cash management service which is linked to your trading account, allowing you to deposit as much cash in the account as you want. This is not a savings account because it is used for investment purposes, but you will receive 5.5 per cent gross interest on amounts below £10,000, 6.25 per cent gross on £10,001 to £50,000, rising in bands up to a maximum of 7.05 per cent gross for over £300,000.

You may, on the other hand, choose to open a "sponsored membership account" which provides all the benefits of electronic settlements, meaning there will be no need for the inconvenience of storing share certificates, but your name will still appear on individual company registers. Charles Stanley & Co. charges £100 plus VAT a year which is suitable for people who regularly deal in shares and do not want to look after share certificates or forward paperwork.

The company also offers a "nominee service" for shareholdings registered in a nominee company's name for a client or an investment club. This service is for people with larger portfolios who do not want to look after share certificates and want other benefits. They include receiving a consolidated tax voucher each year for all the dividends paid into the portfolio. Guy Knight, at Charles Schwab which offers a similar service, says: "If you trade frequently the administration can become complicated with, for example, rights issues and takeovers. We do that for you in a nominee account."

Once you have decided on the most suitable service for your needs, you are ready to give your first instruction. Simply take out your Gold Dealing Account card, telephone the dealing desk, quote your name and account number, ask for the price of the share you want to deal in and place your instruction. The dealer will execute your order immediately in all but the most tricky cases when he or she might have to phone you back in a few minutes. A contract is sent out to you later that day.

Charles Stanley charges 1 per cent commission on the first £5,000 on an execution-only deal, the next £5,000 is charged at 0.5 per cent and the balance over this sum at 0.25 per cent. So, for example, a £5,000 transaction with this firm would cost you £50 in commission plus stamp duty on purchases, which is currently 0.5 per cent on UK equities, bringing the total cost to £75. Minimum commission is £20.

Barclays Stockbrokers offers a slightly lower minimum commission of £15, but Justin Urquart-Stewart, business planning director, warns investors to remember to take the difference between the bid and offer price (the spread) when they are doing their calculations. For example, say you can buy a share today at £6.84 and sell at £6.80 and that spread will vary depending on demand.

You decide that you will buy 146 shares for £6.84 each, costing a total of £998.64. Then add £15 commission and £5.07 for stamp duty, giving you a total of £1,018.7. If you then divide the £1,018.7 by 146, then you realise that the shares have to rise to £6.97 from £6.80 for you to recoup the commission, stamp duty and spread. Investors who have done their calculations and decided to deal may want to do it immediately by phone. Barclays Stockbrokers allows someone to telephone for the first time and deal straight away. They will ask you for your postcode, check you are on the voting register and whether there are county court judgments against you. This takes about 30 seconds, then you can buy up to £7,500 worth of shares.

Another useful service is offered by NatWest Stockbrokers. Three hundred NatWest branches have "Shade" machines and if you want to sell a share you can do it within a few minutes even if you are not a customer of the bank. Just walk in with your share certificate, request the price of the share from a NatWest employee familiar with the Shade PC machine which has the real time prices of 1,100 UK stocks on it. Then in a couple of seconds the programme will display the share's price minus the commission and the total proceeds you would receive if you sell.

If you decide to sell, the deal is done on the spot, your details taken and the money paid into the account you have specified. You will be asked to sign a transfer form, hand over the certificate and walk out with your contract note. The settlement will be carried out within five working days. NatWest's minimum commission is £20 and 1.5 per cent up to £10,000 using the Shade Service.

The future of execution-only services is bright. The introduction of individual savings accounts next year is expected to increase the number of British shareholders. The Government's apparent determination to encourage the population to save for their welfare rather than to rely on the state will also increase the focus on cheap share dealing services like these.

CONTACTS

Charles Stanley & Co: 0171-739 5151
Barclays Stockbrokers: 0345-777 400
NatWest Stockbrokers: 0800-200 400
The Share Centre: 01442-890 877
Charles Schwab: 0870-601 7777

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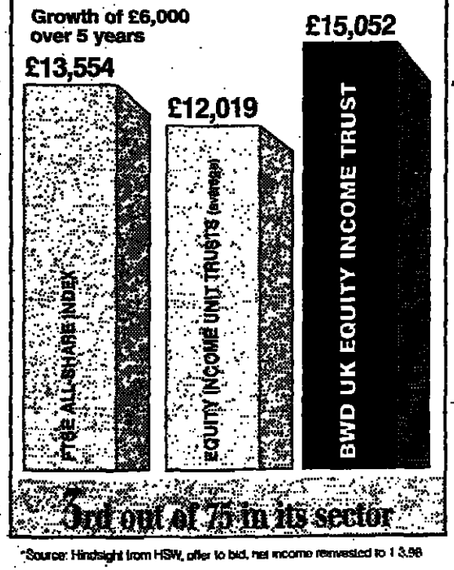
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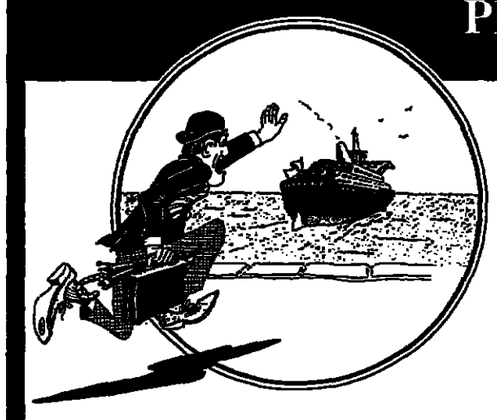
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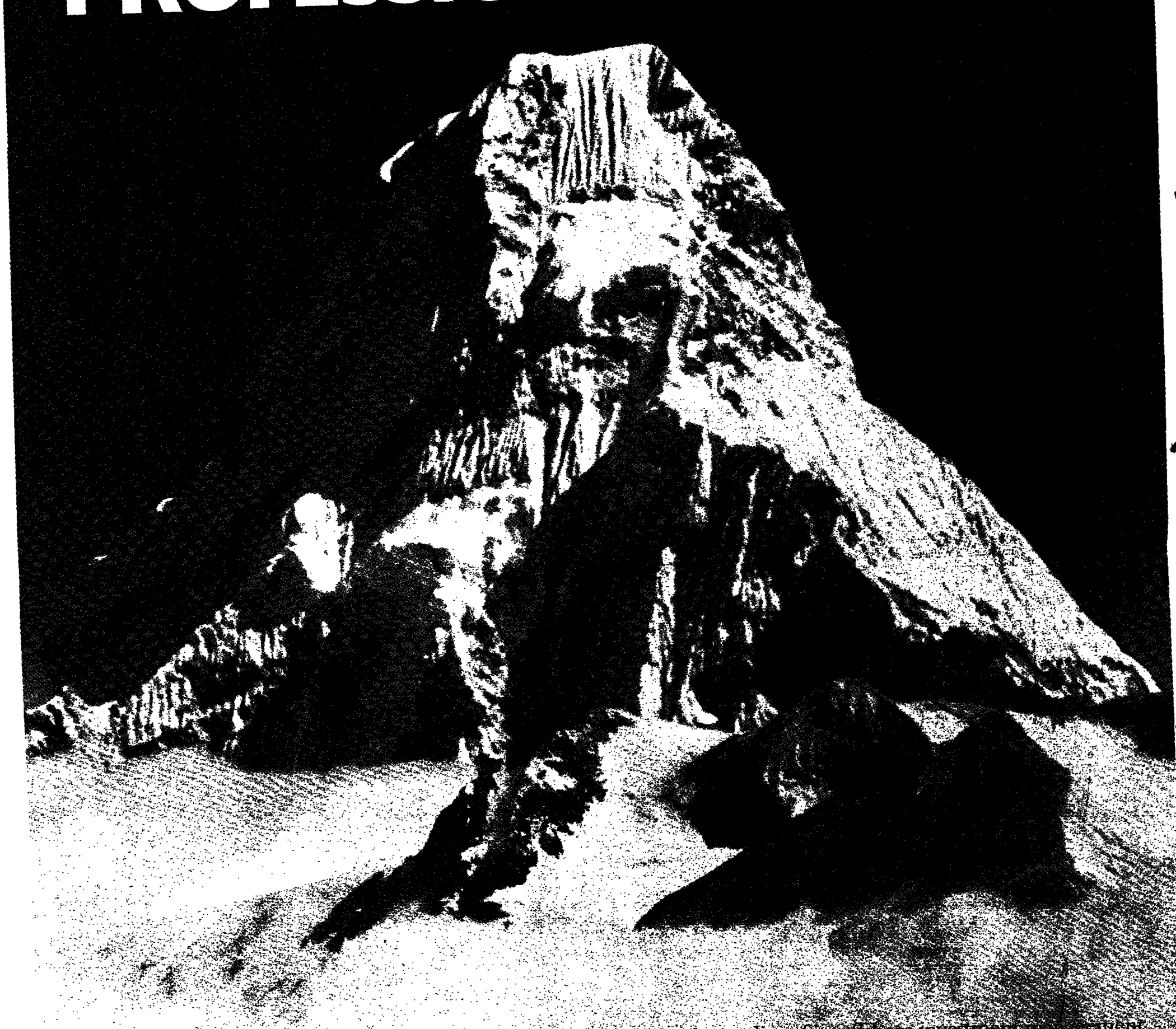
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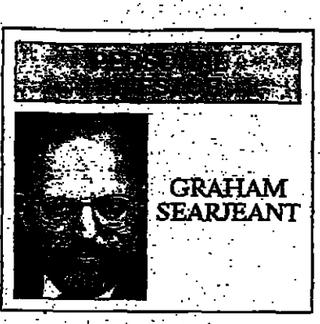
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Half-baked budgeting



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Labour's huge majority has given ministers the confidence to override the doubts of experts and nit-picking Sir Humphreys. They just push through their own, and their advisers', ideas. That can work well if you really know your subject. If ideas are half-baked, it can be disastrous, as the Tories learnt over the poll tax.

In this Budget, like the last, savers and investors seem to be getting the mistakes. In July, Gordon Brown levied £5 billion a year from pension funds, having no doubt been told by those with a little knowledge that final-salary company schemes were rolling in surplus. He said it would boost investment.

The non-experts may not have realised that many contribution-starved public sector schemes were barely solvent. Nor did they pay much regard to the millions saving in pension plans that rest solely on investment returns. For them, and any stakeholder scheme, cash taken in tax will just cut future pensions, more than pound for pound.

Last autumn's plans for individual savings accounts (Isas) were equally ill-thought out. Luckily, there was no need to keep them secret. Consultation brought swingeing criticism and the Government listened. Some crackpot complexities still remain, but incentives are not to be cut off wholly from the regular savers who made Peps and Tessas a success.

One *quid pro quo* for these concessions may be a Budget move against "bed-and-breakfasting", the practice of selling and rebuying shares or unit trusts to use your annual capital gains tax allowance, now to be £6,800. This was good business for brokers but a pain for fund managers. It was not, however, a loophole in the sense that the Treasury self-righteously implies. Rather, it allowed long-term investors to pay no more capital gains tax than short-term traders.

Reform of CGT, supposedly designed to favour long-term investment over short-term speculation, is this Budget's worst feature. The structural reform will scarcely alter the total tax take, as can be seen in the Treasury's own projection.

Short-term traders will have to pay the same as they do now, treating gains as income. So the reforms will merely redistribute the burden between different groups of long-term investors.

They aim to discriminate against investors in favour of business owners and are part of a package for smaller companies. It is not clear that change will help. In comes a lower schedule of tax for business assets. But out go retirement relief and much previous rollover relief.

One consequence, via venture capital changes, is to undermine the Stock Exchange's Alternative Investment Market (AIM). Rolling over gains re-invested in other qualifying AIM stocks gave a big boost to this high-risk market. It attracts private investors, who provide an after-market in AIM shares. Barbara Roche, the Small Firms Minister, said this was vital for the health of AIM. Did the Treasury ask her? Unless changes are made in the Finance Bill, roll-over relief will be limited to new share capital and the smallest AIM stocks. Hardly a help for growing firms.

The key to the CGT reform, however, is abolishing indexation of the cost of investments in line with the retail price index. Inflation is to be taxed again. No doubt this Chancellor, like all Chancellors, is confident that inflation will stay low. Many are not so confident. And even 2.5 per cent a year builds up over ten. The inflation tax is a tax on long-term investors. The effective rate comes down to 24 per cent for a 40 per cent taxpayer after ten years. But many bigger investors will find tax bills doubling.

The higher your real capital gain, the more the change will help. The more modest your real gain, the more you will be taxed. This is daft, a classic case of change for change's sake that will not achieve its aims. Instead, it will complicate CGT even more. Imagine working out the capital gain on a share up to 1998 on one basis and then calculating the taxable gain after 1998 on the new basis. Even Sherlock Holmes would find that a two-pipe problem. Whoever designed the reform clearly could not be bothered to smoke one.

A regular savings revival up north

Halifax is moving into regular savings with the launch of a new monthly savings account paying 7.50 per cent. Curiously few institutions now offer this type of scheme although they will all pay lip service to the need for regular saving. National Savings does not have a regular scheme, a much criticised gap in its range.

The regular savings accounts currently on the market offer rates ranging from a reasonable 7.80 per cent to a miserly 2.85 per cent at the Triodos Bank which supports environmental causes. The terms differ between institutions, so anyone who has made the pious intention to save regularly must read the small print.

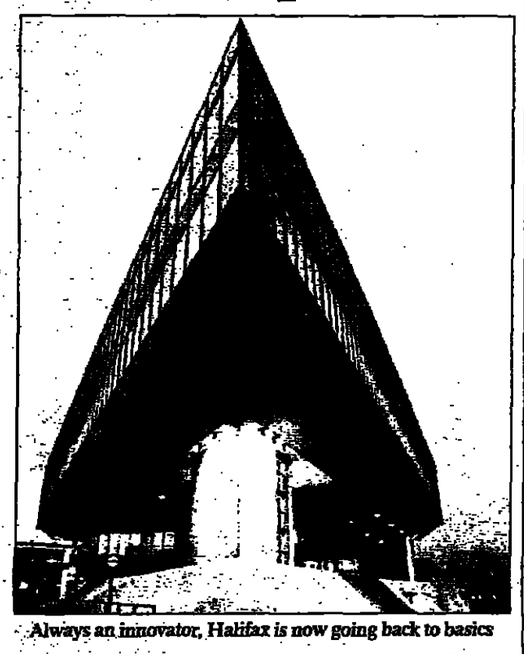
Some banks and building societies insist on 12 consecutive payments, others require only 10 or 11 deposits. Missed payments can mean penalties, usually a loss of interest.

Frequent withdrawal of cash from regular savings accounts is not generally encouraged. Most permit customers to make no more than one to two a year. However, the Furness Building Society, Nationwide, Sainsbury Bank and Abbey National do not permit any to be made without loss of interest. Penalties are harsh, for example. Furness cuts 4 per cent, taking the annual interest down to 3.8 per cent. The Abbey National's regular saver account incurs a penalty of 3 per cent which means savers would then receive a poor of 2.25 per cent a year. Bradford & Bingley simply closes the account.

The five best interest rates on offer are Furness BS (7.80 per cent); West Bromwich (7.75 per cent); Britannia (7.75 per cent); Nationwide (7.70 per cent) and Bradford & Bingley (7.60 per cent).

Saffron Walden BS, Dudley BS, and Darlington BS also offer good rates, but investment is permitted from local residents only.

LIZANNE ROSE



Always an innovator, Halifax is now going back to basics

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Apply before 3rd April 1998

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With our special PEP discount of 2%, and strengthening European stockmarkets, there's never been a better time to invest in Europe. Take advantage of this excellent growth potential by investing in the Mercury European Growth Fund. Had you been able to invest £6,000 in a PEP at the Fund's launch in December 1983, it would now be worth £62,973 tax-free – an average annual return of 18.0%.*

Save up to £120

For more information and details of a 2% PEP discount worth up to £120, call us now, return the coupon or contact your financial adviser.

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Title Surname

Forenames (in full)

Address

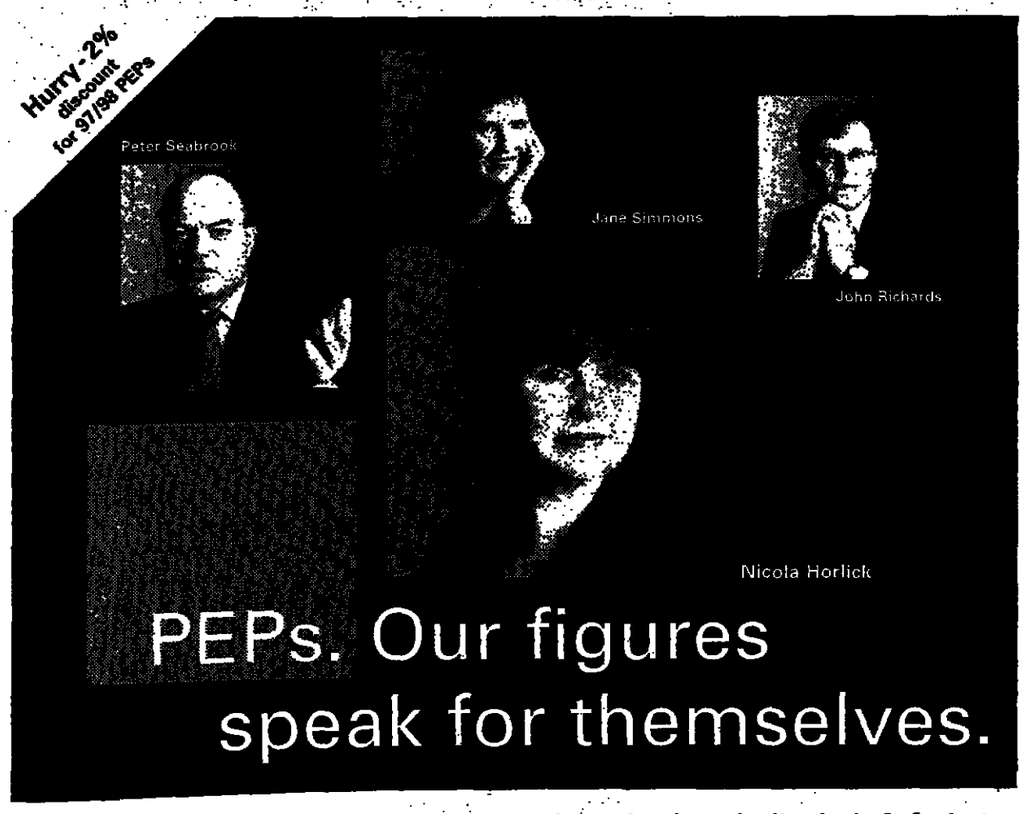
Postcode

Ref: TMEA12/98

MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT

*Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal. Performance figures based on buying to selling prices to 1.3.98 with gross income reinvested. 5 year performance. £14,179, an average annualised return of 18.8%. ■ 2% discount on the buying price of units for lump sum PEP investments of £1,000 or more. ■ The value of investments and income from them may fluctuate and are not guaranteed. ■ Changes in rates of exchange may cause the value of your investment to rise or fall. ■ Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. ■ The tax treatment of PEPs will change in April 1999. ■ The Mercury European Growth Fund is managed by Mercury Fund Managers Ltd (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) the unit trust management arm of Mercury Asset Management Ltd. ■ The Mercury PEPs are managed by Mercury Asset Management Ltd (regulated by IMRO). ■ This advertisement is based on the Chancellor's Budget statement on 17.3.98 ■ Issued by Mercury Investment Services Ltd, 33 King William Street, London EC4R 9AS http://www.mam.com which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and represents only the Mercury Marketing Group and its packaged products which include unit trusts, PEPs and pensions. ■ For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded

Hurry - 2% discount for 97/98 PEPs



PEPs. Our figures speak for themselves.

"We have put together the best investment team that I have ever worked with, wholly committed to the highest standards of investment performance and client service.

The Budget continued the tax-free benefits of a PEP. We have extended the 2% discount on our successfully-launched UK Growth PEP so investors can maximise these benefits." *Nicola Horlick*

"The UK market has never been as interesting as it is now, with excellent opportunities for the experienced stockpicker." *Peter Seabrook*

"Our aim is to deliver index-beating performance, regardless of market conditions." *Jane Simmons*

Investors have the security of knowing that SocGen Asset Management is backed by Société Générale, a leading international bank with assets of £238bn.

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To: SocGen Asset Management, SEA8048 FREEPOST, Kingston-Upon-Thames KT2 8BR. Please send me a copy of your brochure relating to the SocGen UK Growth Unit Trust and PEP.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address

Postcode T21/3

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The shape of things to come

Issued by Société Générale Retail Services Limited (regulated by the Personal Investment Authority) trading as SocGen Asset Management. Société Générale Unit Trusts Limited (regulated by IMRO) manages the fund and Société Générale Asset Management UK Limited (regulated by IMRO) manages the PEPs. In addition to the brochure, you may also request a free copy of the Scheme Particulars relating to the SocGen UK Growth Unit Trust. For your own security, any calls may be recorded and randomly monitored. Please note that the price of units may go down as well as up. Due to the initial charge, you may lose money if you withdraw in the early years. PEPs and unit trusts may not be suitable investments for everyone and, if you have any doubts, you should seek independent advice. The value of the current PEP tax reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances. You are entitled to a PEP allowance of £6,000 in the current tax year. UKGT0

Budget update

Notice to all Norwich Union PEP holders

In Tuesday's Budget the government announced further details of the new Individual Savings Account (ISA) and we are keen to ensure our customers are kept up to date with developments and understand how they will be affected.

- ISAs will be available from 6th April 1999 after which no further investments into PEPs will be allowed.
- You still have time to ensure you've made the maximum investment for the current tax year and next, in a tax efficient PEP which will be in addition to any investments in an ISA.
- You will be allowed to invest a maximum of £5,000 per year for 10 years in an ISA (£7,000 in the first year).
- Investments and regular savings within an ISA can be made into such things as unit trusts, stocks and shares, cash, and life policies.
- The account will be free of personal tax.
- Norwich Union will launch our ISA on 6th April 1999.
- In the meantime, your Norwich Union PEP remains an excellent, tax efficient home for your investment and savings.

And a quick word to everyone else

Whether or not you're currently a NU PEP holder, you still have time to invest in the 1997/98 and 1998/99 tax years. With a historic return of 108%* in just over 5 years, the Norwich Global Tracking PEP is an excellent, tax efficient home for this unique opportunity.

By sending us your application by 3rd April you have the chance to invest in two years worth of tax-efficient PEP allowance (up to a max of £12,000). We'll simply hold your 1998/99 allowance until 6th April and then invest it on your behalf.

For a free information pack call

0800 056 2450

Quoting reference no 11164

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http://www.norwich-union.co.uk

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INSURANCE INVESTMENTS HEALTHCARE PENSIONS

Past performance is no guide to the future, unit prices can go down as well as up. The performance of PEPs invested in equity based assets will reduce from 1999 due to the reduction of a reclaimable tax credit. You should consider PEPs a medium to long term investment. Funds invested abroad may alter with exchange rate fluctuations. Information/advice will only relate to Norwich Union products. We may telephone you to confirm receipt of your pack. *Although the Norwich Global Tracking PEP has only been available since July 1996, if you had invested £1,000 on 1.1.93 in the underlying funds of the Norwich Global Tracking PEP in the same proportion as the PEP, your investment would be worth £2,080 (a growth of 108%) on 31.1.98, assuming the income tax benefits of a PEP applied. Full written terms and conditions are available on request. The future bases and rates of tax may vary. In certain circumstances information may be passed to other insurance companies or professional experts acting on our behalf. Details that you provide may be used by Norwich Union group companies or other relevant organisations for marketing purposes. If you wish to opt out of the Norwich Union group marketing, please write to Norwich Union, FREEPOST, Mailing Exclusion Team, PO Box 903, Sheffield S11 8LB. For your protection all telephone calls will be recorded. The Personal Investment Authority and IMRO regulate Norwich Union Portfolio Services Limited.

هكذا من الأصل

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9%

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- Receive 9% net every year (or annual equivalent 8.64% net with monthly payments)
- Alternatively, receive an accumulated payment at the end of the 5 year term (you should receive 55%)
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- Limited issue apply before 24th April
- Bond available from Royal Scottish Assurance – the life assurance, pensions and investment company of The Royal Bank of Scotland
- The value of the return of capital depends on the performance of the FT-SE 100 Index and the Nikkei 225 Index
- Capital and investment benefits are not guaranteed**
- The bond is not suitable if you cannot afford an element of risk to your capital. There is some capital risk if stockmarkets are lower after five years
- Nil stockmarket growth is required for a full capital return

Apply before 29th March to qualify for an Early Investor Bonus.

Call into your local Royal Bank branch for details or call

0800 45 55 65

The Royal Bank of Scotland

*If you are a higher rate tax payer, you will have a tax liability on the payments received. Any taxes on the assets underlying the policy are paid by Royal Scottish Assurance. The level and bases of taxation can change. The value of reliefs from taxation depends on individual circumstances. The capital and investment benefits are not guaranteed. The payments above are net of basic rate tax. **The value of investments and the income from them can fall as well as rise. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future and you may not get back the full amount you invest. The Royal Bank of Scotland plc ("the Bank") is a Member of The Royal Bank of Scotland Marketing Group which also includes Royal Scottish Assurance plc and Royal Bank of Scotland Unit Trust Management Limited, for the purposes of advising on and selling packaged products (life assurance, pensions and unit trust products). The only packaged products which the Bank advises on and sells are those of The Royal Bank of Scotland Marketing Group, all members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The Bank is also regulated by IMRO and SFA.
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Paul Chai selects unit trusts for each stage of life from childhood to retirement

Funds to suit your goals

Pooling your own funds with other investors into a unit trust or other managed type of investment is an excellent way to reduce risk, but, as there are about 1,600 unit trusts to choose from, selecting the right one can be confusing.

No two funds are the same and so will suit different investors at varying times in their lives.

The three major questions that affect the choice of an investment fund are: how much risk you are prepared to take; your income needs; and how long you want to tie up the money.

One more important point is the cliché about not putting all your eggs in one basket. If you have a large sum to invest, spread the risk across more than one fund.

Charges are another consideration. Fund managers are working full-time on your behalf, and while it is comforting to have a professional looking after your money, you have to pay for the privilege.

Most funds use a committee to select a trust's investments, so the departure of one manager should not affect the performance too drastically, but trusts with a bright young thing in sole charge may need to be watched carefully.

The type of funds you need will change as you develop as an investor, so it is important to consult an independent adviser to help to select the best fund for each stage of your life. Here is a guide to finding those funds.

INVESTMENT
A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

RETIRED

If you are retired, or close to it, you will have two main concerns: income and safety. Philip Percival, a senior consultant at Watson Wyatt, suggests investors consider a UK share market income and growth fund, currently yielding around 3 per cent gross.

"These funds tend to be invested in quoted companies capable of paying reasonable dividends and also growing in value, so they have a heavy weighting in blue chip stocks."

Examples include Govett UK Equity and Legal & General UK Stockmarket fund.

For retired people who do not require capital growth, but need income, gilt and fixed-interest based unit trusts are appropriate, giving yields at around 6 per cent gross.

Income fund leaders are Perpetual High Income, Schroder Income and the Jupiter Income.

It is important to consider your tax position. If you have a non-taxpaying spouse, a straight income fund can be attractive at any stage because the tax taken from the income can be reclaimed.

PRE-RETIRED

While you are building up your pension fund, or even have another regular savings routine, it is still important to try to have additional investments, and a unit trust with a growth component is ideal.

Pure growth funds tend to be similar to the income and growth funds, but will often carry a higher risk with, say, high technology stocks to give the fund the potential to outpace inflation. Funds include the Fidelity UK Growth and Fidelity Special Situations.

Recovery funds are also used for achieving growth. These concentrate on companies currently out of favour with the stock market, but which may revive.

Investors who don't mind taking risks should consider corporate bond funds for their income. They are currently grossing 6 to 7 per cent, and the Henderson Preference and Bond fund and the Aberdeen Fixed Interest bond are two popular possibilities.

FAMILIES

Just when we realise we should begin investing, tends to be the time we have a mortgage and a brood of children to cope with. But if your mortgage is under control, and you have some spare cash, a unit trust is an excellent vehicle for saving as a long-term project.

They can also be used to provide an investment for children — to give them a head-start in the future.

Bob Marriott, of Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, says tracker funds are a good idea. They are the fastest growing area of investment funds, and £1 billion was placed in them last year, partly because they tend to maintain steady performance and have low charges owing to minimal management costs.

"Tracker funds can be useful for people with little time to worry about their investments, because they are linked to an index performance," Mr Marriott said. Morgan Grenfell's and the HSBC tracker are good examples.

Mr Marriott said that while tracker funds have low charges, most good actively managed investment funds can be expected to outperform them in the long run.

Investors unable to tie up money for long periods may consider cash funds which give the most flexibility and lack the volatility of equity-based unit trusts. Do not assume, however, that a cash-based trust will perform better than other cash investments, because special bank accounts will often give the best deal.

SINGLES

Ideally, young, single investors who have a good job with a decent wage should resist the urge to splurge and consider building wealth, however far-off retirement may seem. They may not need investments for income, so can afford to take a greater risk, and share-heavy investment trusts are the ones to choose. This is because stock market investments may vary from year to year, but invariably shares will eventually outperform other investments.

Mr Marriott said: "The range of funds for those investors that can put their money away for the long term are very broad. His recommendation is international funds.

GT International Income is a strong performer, but for people who want to invest in a particular area or country there is a wide range, such as Gartmore Hong Kong or Schroder's Pacific Growth.

Mr Marriott said young investors are frequently looking for specialist funds such as ethical investments, and interesting ones to consider are MPI Globalcare with its focus in the healthcare sector, or funds from Friends Provident and Abbey.

But make sure it is not a case of ethics before income. Mr Marriott advises caution, saying an investor should ask "Am I buying just for ethical income?" Green may be good but at what expense?

He also suggests young investors should consider investing in young companies, as over the medium to long term smaller company funds regularly outperform the blue chip ones. However, they are more volatile, and, if forced to sell early, an investor may lose money. Schroder's Smaller Companies is one to consider.

Finally, for the brave, there are two more options. One is venture capital funds, which invest in companies yet to be listed on the Stock Exchange. All the blue chips once started out this way, but failure rates are high, so is the risk.

The other idea is funds invested in the areas of commodities and energy. These do not follow the generally upward trend of share market investments but are directly tied to demand for the commodity. Safer than a bet at Cheltenham, but not for the faint-hearted.

TALKING HEADS FILMS



Like suits, one size of fund does not fit everybody

POST BUDGET PEPs

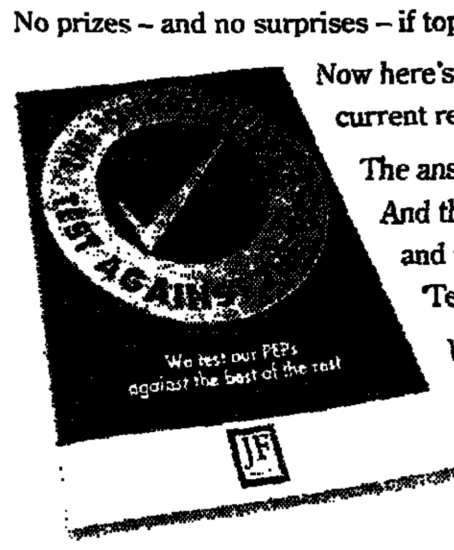
Make the most of your tax free PEP allowances. You only have two opportunities left – this tax year and next. Our deadline for the first tax year is April 4th.

Result of £6,000 invested over two years	
Johnson Fry Slater Growth	£11,151
Johnson Fry UK Growth	£8,346
Fidelity UK Growth	[illegible]
Jupiter UK Growth	[illegible]
Perpetual UK Growth	[illegible]
Schroder UK Enterprise	[illegible]

The Johnson Fry PEP Challenge.

Quickly now: can you name any PEP managers with a reputation for performance?

No prizes – and no surprises – if top names like Fidelity, Jupiter, Perpetual and Schroder come to mind.



Now here's the challenge. Think of another PEP manager with a stronger current record in UK Equity unit trusts than any of them.

The answer – as the table clearly demonstrates – is Johnson Fry.

And the full evidence is laid out for your perusal in our thought-provoking and unusually readable new PEP brochure, appropriately titled 'Test Against The Best.'

Whatever you do, don't choose a PEP until you've read it. For your copy, call us free on 0800 783 4343 (our lines are open 24 hours a day).

0800 783 4343

JF Johnson Fry

Johnson Fry Securities Limited, 20 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PZ. Internet: http://www.johnsonfry.iii.co.uk

Important Note - This advertisement is issued by Johnson Fry Securities Limited, regulated by SFA and a Member of The London Stock Exchange. Johnson Fry Slater Growth was launched on 21 November 1987. Over the five years to 31 December 1997, Johnson Fry Slater Growth, Jupiter UK Growth, Schroder UK Enterprise, Perpetual UK Growth and Fidelity UK Growth have grown by 147.09%, 178.03%, 134.64%, 128.69% and 123.04% respectively. Since launch on 11 October 1995 to 31 December 1997, Johnson Fry UK Growth has grown by 40.90%. All figures shown are to 31 December 1997 and are calculated on an offer-to-bid basis, gross income reinvested. Source: Reuters Hindsight. The figures in the table have been rounded down to the nearest pound. The value of units and the income (if any) from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invested. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. Because of the initial charge you may lose money if you withdraw in the early years. You should regard an investment in the Trusts as a long term investment. Johnson Fry Slater Growth is likely to hold fewer shares than is common in other unit trusts and may acquire shares in companies with relatively small market capitalisations and which may not be readily marketable. These factors may increase the risks of the Trust. PEPs and unit trusts may not be suitable investments for everyone and if you have any doubts you should seek independent advice before investing. The value of the current PEP tax reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances. Following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget announcement on 17 March 1998, assuming the proposals are passed into law as announced, subscriptions into PEPs cannot be made when Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) are introduced on 6 April 1999. Existing PEP holders will, however, be able to keep their accumulated savings free of income and capital gains tax and may choose to change PEP manager at any time. The tax reliefs for PEPs will mirror the tax reliefs for ISAs.
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The reason for our consistent excellence is that we search the whole world for stocks we believe are worth more than the asking price. If you already have a PEP, you can simply transfer your account to the 'Global' PEP.

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IF YOU'RE GOING TO BUY A PENSION, MAKE SURE IT'S ONE OF THE BEST ON THE MARKET.

It's not always easy to work out which pension company you should choose, but The Independent recently used a system put forward in an Office of Fair Trading discussion document to review the market.

This simple rating system allows people to make a straight comparison between pension plans by giving each one a series of ratings on a scale of A+ to C-.

Company	Ratings early, mid and final stages taking into account charges, transfer values and persistency
Equitable Life	A+A+A+
Marks & Spencer	A+AA+
Scottish Widows	AAA
Virgin	AAA
Alliance & Leicester	AAA
Standard Life	AAB
Legal & General	AAA
Friends Provident	BAA
Clerical Medical	BBA
Commercial Union	ABB
National Mutual	BBA
Norwich Union	BBA
NPI	BBB
Scottish Mutual	BBA
AXA Equity & Law	BBA
General Accident	BBA
Scottish Life	BBA
Midland	BBC
Eagle Star	BBB
Scottish Amicable	BBC
Natwest	BBB
Sun Life	C-BA
J Rothschild	CCB
Scottish Equitable	CCB
Abbey National	BBB
Black Horse	CCB
Allied Dunbar	C-CA
TSB	CCC
Skandia	CCC-
Barclays	BCC
Guardian	CCC
Lincoln	C-C-C-

* 30 year plans with premiums of £200 per month, with projected growth of 9 per cent per annum
Note - the correlation between the estimated average plan return and ABC ratings is less close when plans only allow paid up values after a period, e.g. after a year with Abbey National and Barclays
Note - because of lack of data some substantial providers, eg. the Prudential, could not be included.

Source: The Independent, 13 December 1997

The rating takes into account charges, transfer values and the proportion of people who decide not to continue with a chosen plan.

Their survey shows one company head and shoulders above the rest, with a perfect score.

WHY DOES THE EQUITABLE LIFE SCORE SO WELL?

The final value of your pension depends on two things:
First, how much of your money disappears in charges before it can be invested.
Second, how well the balance is invested.

LOW COSTS MEAN LOW CHARGES

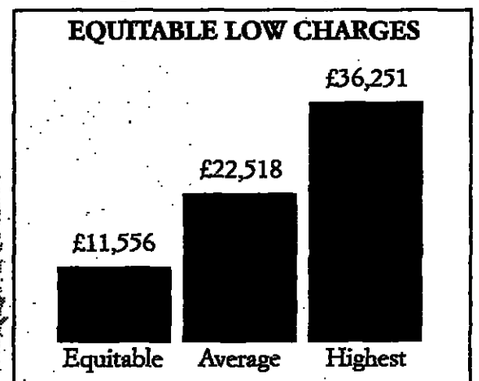
As a mutual life company, the oldest in the world in fact, we don't have any shareholders to take a slice of the profits, nor have we ever paid commission to third parties. And we keep all our internal expenses to an absolute minimum.

Three good reasons why we are renowned for our low costs.

It's also why an annual Planned Savings' survey in October 1997 once again shows The Equitable Life as having the lowest ratio of expenses to premium income of all companies surveyed across the UK.

What is important is that we pass these savings on to our clients in the form of unusually low charges, so more of your money can be invested for the future.

The chart below shows the effect that different companies' charges will have on a £200 a month unit-linked pension plan over 20 years



How much a fund is reduced by charges over 20 years.

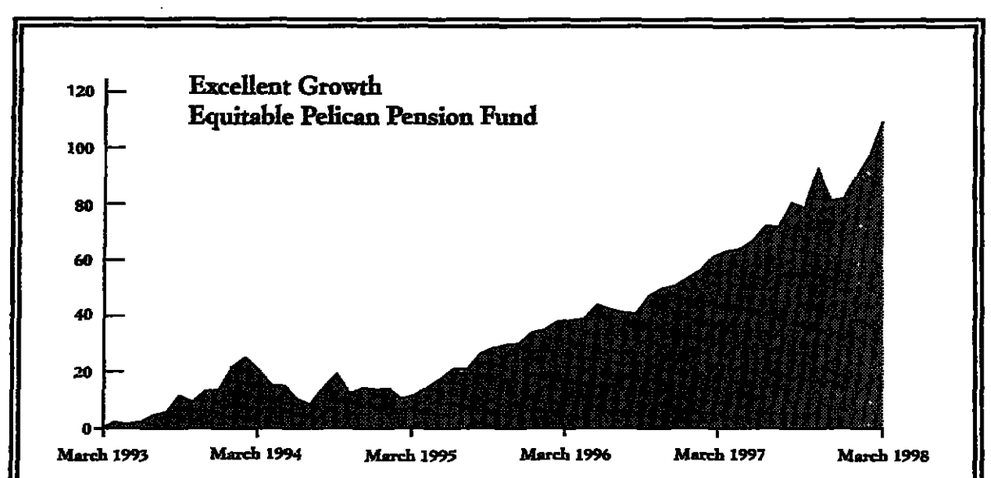
The above chart shows the effect of charges on the projected open market option funds as at 1 July 1997 for new style unit-linked personal pension plans for a man aged 45 retiring at age 65. Monthly contributions of £200. Assumed annual growth rate 9%.*

Because we charge almost half the industry average, the value of your fund could be increased by thousands of pounds. And that's before any difference in investment performance is taken into account.

STRONG AND CONSISTENT TRACK RECORD

When choosing a pension provider, it makes sense to look for a consistently strong performer. After all, almost every pension company has some sort of success story to tell - perhaps one of their funds went through a brief purple patch at some stage. But how often have they been able to repeat that?

According to a recent survey in Money Management, 72% of our funds were above-average performers over 5 and 10 years.*Our wide range of unit-linked funds also means that you can choose to link your investment to particular markets and sectors should you wish including, for example,



The above graph shows the percentage growth (bid/bid) of The Equitable Pelican Pension Fund between 1 March 1993 and 1 March 1998. Gross income is reinvested.

UK Index Tracking, Gilt & Fixed Interest, High Income, Guaranteed Equity, Property, European, North American, Far Eastern, Ethical and Smaller Companies.

The same survey showed that if you had been investing £200 per month in our popular Pelican Pension Fund, a general UK equity fund, for the last five years, your plan would now be worth £17,441. That's well ahead of the £15,616 average for UK equity funds.* The payout on 1 March 1998 would have been £19,724.

Please note that past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

The value of units and the income from them can fall as well as rise.

Contributions to the Society's pension products are invested in its pension business fund. Since July 1997, pension funds can no longer recover tax credits on the dividends from UK equities, but they continue to enjoy freedom from tax on capital gains and other income.

*Money Management, October 1997

MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY

Not everyone is in a position to contribute regularly. And many can't be sure when they will retire, so they want to be able to change their retirement date if necessary - without penalty.

No problem.

With an Equitable pension, you are free to increase or decrease your contributions at any time. And you can bring your retirement date forward, or delay it, as you choose. Unlike some companies, all without penalty.

IN SHORT

When it comes to pension planning, you can't start too soon. The longer you leave it, the worse off you could be when you retire. But although time is of the essence, it is not the whole story. You will also need to choose your pension provider very carefully.

It's not just a case of choosing a company with a consistent investment record. You need one whose charges will not cancel out much of the benefit of that investment growth. And because you can never predict your future circumstances, you need a pension plan that will give you all the flexibility you could need.

We believe you need look no further than The Equitable Life. Our record speaks for itself.

For more details by post and by telephone of our low-cost, high-performance pension plans, call us on 0990 38 48 58 or complete the coupon below.

www.equitable.co.uk

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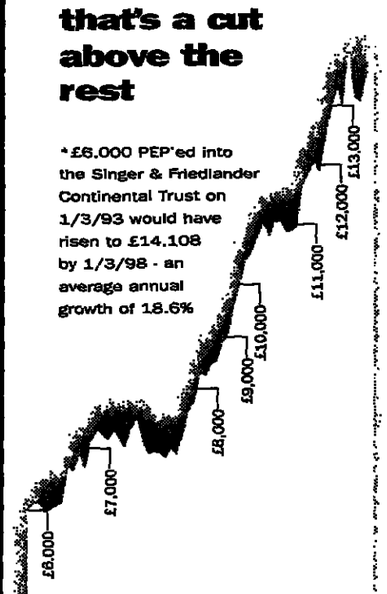
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* All performance source: Micropal, offer to bid, gross income reinvested. The value of units and the income from them may fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount you invest. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of PEP tax reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances. Changes in exchange rates may affect the value of units. Telephone calls may be recorded. Issued by Singer & Friedlander Portfolio Management Ltd., 21 New Street, London EC2M 4HR. Regulated by IMRO. If you do not wish to receive information about other Singer & Friedlander products, please tick ☐

Patrick Collinson on the wrangle over statistics in Pep advertising

Spread a little thinly

In the war of words between Virgin Direct and other fund sellers (see report right), one of the main battles is over investors' not understanding the bid/offer spread. The nub of Virgin's argument is that investors will read "no initial charge" in an advertisement to mean that there is no charge for buying the fund. However, this may not be true, as an investor is still likely to have to pay the bid/offer spread.

Simply, the bid/offer spread is the difference between the buying and selling price of shares, unit or investment trusts. With most funds and shares, an investor buys at one price and sells at another. He buys shares or units at the offer price and sells them at the bid price. The difference between the two is called the spread.

Typically the bid/offer spread is 6 per cent, although it can be as high as 13 per cent. The spread is made up of the stamp duty to buy the underlying shares, stockbroker's dealing costs and the fund's own initial charges — 3 to 5 per cent — and finance commission for salesmen or independent advisers.

Spreads are generally wider on trusts investing in specialist equities (such as emerging markets funds), where dealing costs are higher. For example, the spread last week on Perpetual's unit trusts ranged from 5.82 per cent to 6.5 per cent, with the highest spread on its Far East fund.

The underlying initial charge is 5.25 per cent on most Perpetual funds, so the extra amount paid out in costs by the investor can be as high as 1.25 per cent of the amount invested. M&G, whose funds are mostly weighted towards the UK, has spreads of 5.3 to 5.4 per cent on its main funds, against an initial 5 per cent charge.

So even in a fund advertising no initial charge, an individual investing £6,000 could still have to pay £30-£75 in charges to cover the stamp duty and broking costs. Therefore, no initial charge does not automatically translate into no charge at all, says Virgin. Its Pep is single-priced, meaning that there is no bid/offer spread and that for every £1,000 subscribed to the fund, £1,000 is invested. It treats the stamp duty as an exit charge, and it levies it only if an investor stays with the fund for less than three years. After that Virgin absorbs the cost of the stamp duty.



Even Tracker, Virgin's bloodhound Pep mascot, could not solve this case

Virgin product development director, Martin Campbell, said: "When was the last time there was a complaint about people saying 'no initial charge' in the headline or body copy, with the small print saying 'except for the impact of the bid-offer spread'? Fidelity and M&G have each had advertisements running recently doing just this."

But M&G says it highlights quite clearly in its advertisements that the investor will have to pay the spread even where there is no initial charge. Tessa Murray, of M&G, said: "We say in the same advertisement that there is a dealing spread of 0.48 per cent. We put it in bold, not buried in the small print."

The major difference between the Virgin single price and the bid/offer spread on rival funds is that Virgin does not offer advice, which has to be built into the cost of a fund, said David Mossop, the chief executive of Perpetual. He said: "A single price is just a marketing tool — technically behind it there is still the bid/offer spread. Our spread includes the cost of advice from an independent financial adviser. For other companies which don't use that mechanism, the investor doesn't get advice and pays a lower price."

Virgin pulls out of advert battle

Virgin Direct has withdrawn an advertising campaign for its Growth Pep after a complaint by Fidelity Investments to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) that the advertisement was "patently untrue" and "blatantly misleading".

The advertisement claimed no other Pep consistently outperformed Virgin Growth Pep since its launch in 1995. But Fidelity complained to the ASA that 34 funds outperformed the Virgin Pep over the three-year period.

Paul Kafka, executive director of Fidelity, said: "The impression left with anyone reading the advertisement who did not know better is that Virgin's fund delivered better investment returns over a three-year period than any other fund in the marketplace. This is patently untrue and to suggest such is blatantly to mislead."

Virgin says it stands by the claims in its advertisement, but has decided to withdraw it "to avoid investor confusion". It says the advertisement makes it clear that it is talking about performance over each individual year rather than over a three-year period. Gordon Maw, marketing manager said: "The advertisement will not be run again. It is never Virgin's intention to mislead and we always try to be crystal-clear. We obviously need to find a better way of saying the message."

Virgin's confrontational anti-commission approach to financial advertising has alarmed competitors, but has been highly successful, pulling in £1 billion from more than 200,000 investors. The advertisement was timed to celebrate Virgin's third anniversary of Pep sales. Virgin said: "We spend several million pounds a year on advertising. The amount spent on this was just a blip."

Fidelity, which has been involved in several skirmishes with Virgin, says it feels "vindicated" by the decision to withdraw. Mr Kafka said: "It was a clever use of weasel words. Our interest is making advertisements simple and transparent for investors. We don't care if it was Virgin or anyone else."

P.C.

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C7DL09

Legal & General

*Source: LGIM (09.03.98). The gross yield of the Fixed Interest Trust was 7.1% (6.3% redemption yield) as at 9 March 1998. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. All comparisons of cost apply to PEPs investing wholly in Unit Trusts. Tax assumptions are those currently applicable and are subject to statutory change. The value of tax relief will depend on your individual circumstances. Full written details are available on request. Legal & General (Direct) Limited. Registered in England No. 2702080. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP. Representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. A member of AUTIF. Investors should be aware that unlike cash in a Deposit Account the capital value of investments in Fixed Interest Trusts is not guaranteed. The Government have announced that contributions can only be made to PEPs until April 1999. From that date a new tax privileged savings vehicle, the Individual Savings Account (ISA) will be available.

Stand by for a Pep selling frenzy to beat the deadline

John Givens examines a scheme for investors with £18,000 in the bank to maximise their allowance

HIGH MISS

The coming months will be a Pep selling bonanza, as the fund industry cajoles the public into using their Pep allowances before they are withdrawn in April 1999. The Chancellor's decision not to impose a £50,000 ceiling on transfers from Peps into Isas will further fuel the selling frenzy.

In particular, you can expect to see a rush to launch schemes that encourage customers to pay in their 1997-98 and 1998-99 Pep allowances all at once. Some will be more than happy to accept both the £6,000 general and the £3,000 single Pep allowance for each year, totalling £18,000. The group will invest your money on either side of the tax year end.

Ivory & Sime, the fund management business which is now part of Friends Provident, is among those offering this type of scheme. Your money goes into the group's own and other investment trusts. These are funds which invest in the shares of other companies. Their shares are traded on the stock market. Most trusts invest in a spread of shares but others have a particular theme, such as technology or smaller companies. The share price should, in theory, reflect the value of the assets held by the trust. But, at present, the prices of many stand at a discount to their net asset value because institutional investors, the big insurers and pension funds, have no interest in the shares and because there are simply too many trusts around.

> 'Companies are more than happy to accept Pep allowances for both sides of the next two years'

The average discount stands at around 10 to 12 per cent. There are moves to narrow these discounts but it is not clear whether they will be effective in all cases. Other trust managers, whether they will admit it or not, are waiting for takeover bids which would force the liquidation of the trust. This means that an investment in the Ivory & Sime Pep is something of a leap of faith.

Prospective investors can choose between an income and a growth portfolio. The income portfolio offers an income of up to 10 per cent a year, paid quarterly. Your cash is put into seven leading trusts: Ivory & Sime optimum income, Morgan Grenfell equity income, M&G income, Investors capital, British assets, Merchants and Scottish national income shares.

The growth portfolio, meanwhile, currently invests in ten trusts offering a more global spread: Govett Strategic, Witan, British assets growth shares, Fleming Continental European, TR European growth, Investors capital growth shares, Continental assets, and three Ivory & Sime trusts: UK smaller companies, UK discovery and Optimum income.

Performance of both portfolios has been good since they were launched in February 1995, with the three-year figures showing a 71 per cent rise for the growth fund and 77.1 per cent for the income, after charges have been deducted.

The income fund has also done particularly well over the past 12 months, rising almost 27 per cent, while the growth fund managed around half the increase at 13.35 per cent, still a decent return on capital. Whenever the Ivory & Sime fund managers decide to switch cash to different funds the transfers are made automatically without the investor incurring dealing charges.

The single company Peps currently invest in the shares of Shell Transport & Trading for income and Lloyds TSB for growth, although these options are reviewed regularly and can be changed.

In addition, Ivory & Sime offers a guarantee with its Pep that it will return at least the original capital if the investor dies, adjusted to take account of withdrawals or additional sums paid into the fund.

Experts differ on their assessment of the Ivory & Sime Pep, although most agree that the company has a strong track record in the investment trust market.

Ian Overgage, the marketing manager of Flemings Investment Trusts, believes the Pep offers interesting options to investors. He said: "There is nothing new in companies offering to double up two years' Pep allowances.

"It also offers the option to phase in cash over 12 months so that all of a client's money is not being invested at the wrong time, which is a nice touch."

However, Mr Overgage gives warning that the charges attached to the Ivory & Sime £18,000 Pep are higher than normal.

"The initial charges for both the general and the single company Pep are both 4 per cent and the annual management fees 1.25 and 1.1 per cent respectively, which makes the product more expensive than many other investment trust funds."

Score: ★★★★

Products graded from ★ (poor), to ★★★★★ (outstanding).

Following the Budget the tax regime of PEPs will change and the benefit to you will be reduced from 6.4.99. The value to you of the tax benefits will depend on your own circumstances. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up, you may not get back as much as you invest. M&G do not offer investment advice or make any recommendations regarding investments - we only promote the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group. †Source: Micropal. 1st means top quartile performance to 1.1.98, gross income reinvested for Blue Chip over 5 years and for Managed Income since launch on 1.3.93 and Corporate Bond since launch on 2.5.94.
*There was a 0.6% difference between the buying and selling prices as at 16.3.98.
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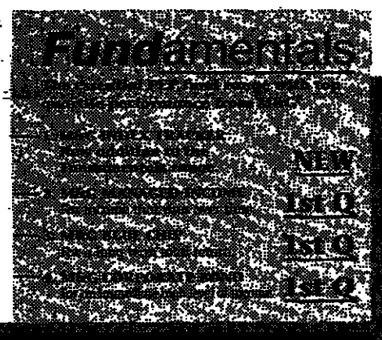
April 5th is the last day you can invest in a PEP this tax year. So, it's more important than ever that you understand the Fundamental benefits of The M&G Index Tracker PEP. It's just as important to know that we've made PEP application easier and quicker for all our clients as the deadline approaches (see 'One call' panel).

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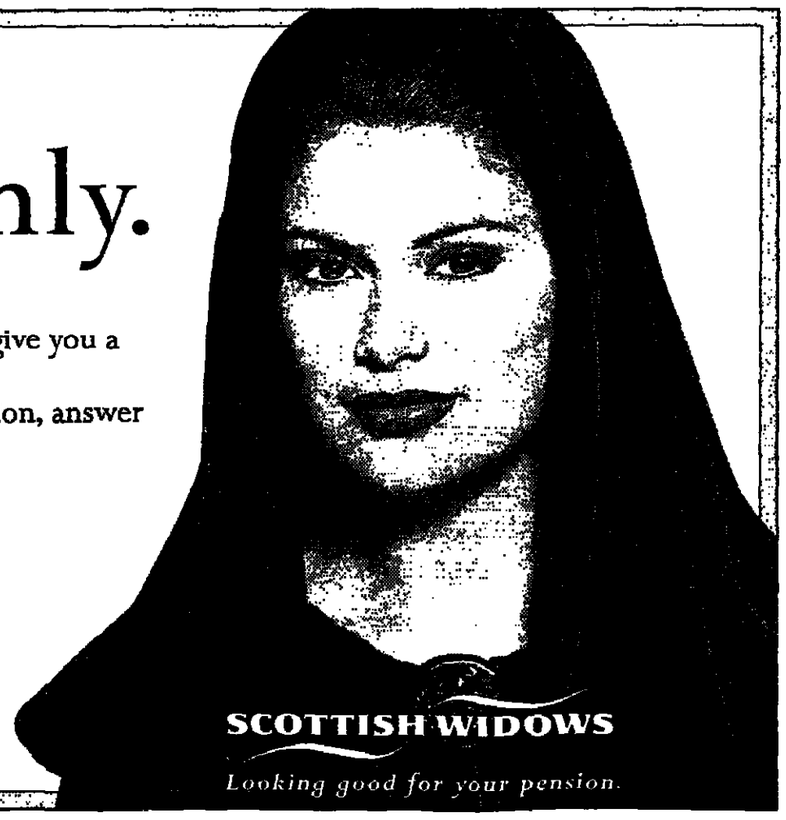
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M&G Securities	3rd	3rd	6th	6th	5th
Perpetual	4th	4th	2nd	3rd	2nd
Mercury Fund M'ngrs	5th	6th	5th	5th	6th
Fidelity Investments	6th	5th	4th	4th	1st
Schroder UT Ltd	7th	7th	7th	7th	7th

*Source: Investment Intelligence. 1/2/98, offer to offer basis. Largest 7 Unit Trust Management Groups' relative weighted performance. Sorted by 1 year performance.

Ask your financial adviser about Threadneedle's PEP or call us free on **0500 600566.**

Threadneedle investments

WEEKEND MONEY

Will annuities soon be valueless?

From Mr Michael McRitchie
Sir, Mr Peter Kellow is right to highlight the downside of personal pensions. (Conventional wisdom seems crazy, Weekend Money Letters, March 7), in particular the inability to transfer from an underperforming fund and the lock-in to annuities which are producing lower returns.

These falling returns have been mentioned recently in *The Times*, but how many people realise just how fast they are falling?

I have your Weekend Money information page from January 20, 1996, when you quoted £8,980 as the figure for a joint life 2/3 widows' level annuity. By February 7 this year this had fallen to £7,622, by February 28, to £7,545, by March 7 to £7,435. At this rate what will we get in 2001? And why should we have to buy an annuity at all at these rates?

We had hoped to retire in three years, but these plummeting rates, plus Mr Brown's taxation of pension funds, make this impossible. Now it appears that the tax-free lump sum could be under threat in future, Peps are disappearing and we self-employed (one in five of the working population, I think) are finding it impossible even to plan for retirement because new Labour is shifting the goalposts with good intent but with little logic.

On the one hand Labour says we must provide for ourselves, on the other the Chancellor makes it harder and harder to do so. Some building society accounts now offer more than annuities; it is tempting to draw down on one's investments over the first few years of retirement while one is hopefully fit enough to enjoy them, and worry about tomorrow when it comes.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL McRITCHIE,
69 Glen Road,
Comber,
Co Down, BT23 5QS.

Means tests are an outrage



From Mr B. Stone
Sir, Those who have contributed all their working lives through national insurance contributions should not be means-tested on their state pensions, whatever their state of affluence.

National insurance contributions were levied on taxable earnings and any state pension earned is subject to further taxation.

In any event the additional personal allowances granted to those over 65 years of age are effectively means-tested because these allowances are reduced once certain income levels are reached.

In my view any further attempt to diminish the state pension would be tantamount to "legalised fraud".

Yours faithfully,
B. G. STONE,
12 Stoneyford Park,
Budleigh Salterton,
Devon,
EX9 6IB.

Pension premiums earnings rule

From Mr Derek Edmunds
Sir, A letter from Dr Philip Thomas (Waiver of premium is essential for life assurance, Weekend Money Letters, March 7), should be drawn to the attention of everyone considering life assurance. However, if someone became too ill to work, it is possible in theory to continue to pay life assurance premiums from savings. Unfortunately, this option is not open in respect of contributions to a personal pension, as it is an essential requirement that such contributions are paid out of "net relevant earnings".

So, without an income — either as an employee or as self-employed — contributions to a personal pension have to stop. If the cause of this loss of income is an illness or accident that prevents the policyholder from ever working again (or even for a significant period of time), the effect on that person's pension fund could be catastrophic.

Anyone considering a personal pension with Virgin should take note that this option is not offered by them. I would hope, therefore, that Virgin make sure that their customers fully understand the possible ongoing effects of having to discontinue their pension contribution through illness. Virgin might also bear in mind that there has been at least one successful lawsuit against a broker who failed to advise his client of this option and found himself on the wrong end of a £60,000 judgment.

Yours faithfully
D.M. EDMUNDS,
Gill Noble & Company Ltd.
1 Arodene Road,
London, SW2 2BG.

Housing: No change to Miras or to stamp duty on property below £250,000. Stamp duty up to 2 per cent for values above £250,000 and 3 per cent on sales above £500,000.

National insurance: Employees and employers will pay NI only on earnings of more than £81 a week from April 1999. A single employer rate of 12.2 per cent will replace the four separate rates of employer NI contributions. The reduction in the amount of NI deducted from pay packets means an extra £1.28 a week for employees.

Inheritance tax: From April 8, the inheritance tax threshold will be raised by £8,000 to £223,000. The tax is unchanged at 40 per cent.

Savings: Peps and Tessas reprieved, allowing investors with more than £50,000 to retain tax benefits. Cash holding for first year of new Isas raised to £3,000. Tax reliefs guaranteed for ten years for Isa savings of up to £5,000 a year.

Capital gains tax: A "taper" will be introduced to reduce the capital gains charge on the disposal of assets according to the length of time held. The annual CGT allowance rises by £300 to £6,800 next year. Schemes used to avoid CGT have been made less favourable, including "bed and breakfasting" of shares.



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*Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal to 1 January 1998, mid to mid price net income reinvested. †Usual PEP management charge is 1.5% + VAT per annum, payable in equal half yearly instalments on 31 March and 30 September each year, and is charged pro rata from the time the PEP is opened. (Witan PEPs ISA friendly. At the time of writing it is our intention that the Witan PEP will be available for ISA investment. Please remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up as a result of market and currency fluctuations, and you may not get back the amount originally invested. No further PEP investments may be made after April 1999, and after that date it is currently envisaged that existing PEPs will enjoy the same tax advantages as Individual Savings Account. Tax assumptions may change if the law changes and the value of tax relief will depend upon your individual circumstances. Henderson Investors is the name under which Henderson Investors Limited and Henderson Investment Funds Limited (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) and Henderson Administration Limited (regulated by IMRO) provide investment products and services. 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA.

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Firm hand needed on Isa salesforce



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Ministers are currently very pleased with the reaction to the Budget. They are as tickled pink as the spring fashion pages. But Gordon Brown should not assume that the lack of protest from the middle classes implies uncritical approval for a speech that showed that "fairness and enterprise, compassion and ambition" go hand in hand, as Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, writes on page 58.

While we may applaud measures designed to end benefit dependency and promote long-term saving, they must be effective. The same criterion applies to the reforms, due to be outlined next week, that will pave the way for the stakeholder pension.

The revised Isa rules, which allow unlimited amounts to be safeguarded from tax in Peps, mean that those who have already developed the habit of thrift will not be penalised. However, the *Government must ensure that the* Isa is the low-charge incentive that will help others to become eager investors. Towards this end, the Treasury is considering the introduction of a benchmark for charges, to ensure that contributions are not swallowed up in fees and commissions.

During discussions on this issue with aspiring Isa firms, the Treasury must be at its most sceptical. The financial services industry has become adept at presenting schemes as low cost, while devising still more intricate ways to fleece the customer. Just now there is a spirit of contrition among certain life insurance companies shamed for pension misdemeanours. But even the most repentant chief executive cannot reform his organisation overnight and so must balance his wish to please the Government with his need to maintain turnover.

He has to give his salesmen something to sell, for which they will expect their usual commission reward. The chief executive knows *that, if Isas are not a lucrative* commission proposition, the salesmen will either ignore them, or use them as a way to sell other more remunerative schemes, regardless of their suitability for the client. The likely result is another saga of misselling that would further lower public trust in the savings industry and make the chief executive loath to show his face at the opera.

There would be little chance then of introducing the compulsory pension contributions, favoured by many in Labour. The Government's attitude to the financial services industry over the next 12 months will show whether it is truly committed to the cause of long-term savings and pensions, or merely fond of self-congratulation and long strings of impressive but meaningless abstract nouns.

Mutual maze

WE HEAR much about the benefits of mutuality, mostly from building society bosses who are doing very nicely from the system. *But the Birmingham Midshires* saga has revealed one large defect in this centuries-old institution. The Royal Bank of Scotland is prepared to pay a maximum of £630 million for the society. The bank will not allow any discussions between the society and the Halifax which has made a rival offer of £780 million. As a mutual, the Birmingham Midshires is owned by its members, the borrowers and savers. But they are not entitled to demand that the Birmingham Midshires directors enter immediately into talks with the higher bidder, or with anyone else who may now wish to acquire the society.

Yet more curiously, the Birmingham Midshires is apparently still preparing to send out a document next month recommending the RBS deal, though alluding to the Halifax approach. Seldom have trees expired for a more ridiculous end. Since, in spite of the existence of many volumes of building society legislation, there appear to be no rules governing this type of situation, the RBS, a 300-year-old institution, should show its maturity by either raising its price or bowing out.

Meanwhile, members will wonder why there seems to be no one representing them in this bizarre affair. They will also conclude that mutuality may be many things, but it is not necessarily democratic.

National hunt

THE HALIFAX has now launched a regular savings account. National Savings, which has long lacked a similar scheme, should follow suit (see page 47). However, since the organisation now needs to raise just £1 billion next year, any product innovation appears unlikely. It now seems accepted that National Savings no longer needs to be competitive. Customers should ask why.

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How to pay the gas bill while on a country stroll

The Co-operative Bank took the banking wars to its final frontier with the launch of an online service this week. The ethical bank follows the TSB and the Nationwide which are already online, while Barclays, which offers PC banking, and Lloyds are also poised to launch into cyberspace.

The new Internet service allows the bank's two million personal account holders to conduct their routine banking at the click of a mouse provided they are connected to the Web.

The service will allow customers to view account balances as well as current and old bank statements, transfer funds from one account to another, cancel or amend standing orders, cancel direct debits, pay their bills and order a cheque-book or paying in book.

The bank will not charge for the service, which is available on www.co-operativebank.co.uk.

In addition to ordinary Internet banking, the Co-operative is working on a prototype *version of the service which* customers will be able to call up by a palm-top organiser such as the Psion. Keith Girling, the head of Channel Development said: "Having developed the Internet service, we reaslised that with a little extra work it could be adapted for palm-top organisers which are becoming more and more popular. At the moment it is only a prototype but within a few months it will be universally available."

The advantage of Psion banking is its flexibility and being able to contact your bank from virtually anywhere. Technologists say that by the end of the year it will be possible to use a mobile phone to access the Internet, and this development will mean that customers could still pay their bills even if they were in the middle of a field on a country ramble.

Psion banking is also being piloted by Lloyds, which has 1,000 of its customers currently taking part in a trial. The bank says it hopes soon to be able to offer the service to all clients.

Lloyds also has internet banking in the pipeline. So far, 3,500 customers have said they will be interested in going online.

The Co-operative would not reveal the number of customers it expects will use its Internet service. The bank said: "The number of people who will use the Internet service will be tied to the increasing numbers of people going online and using it for more than just surfing the Net."

SUSAN EMMETT

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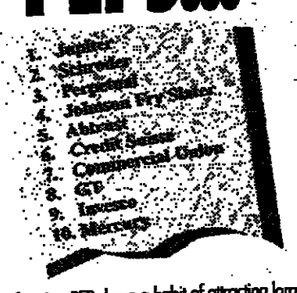
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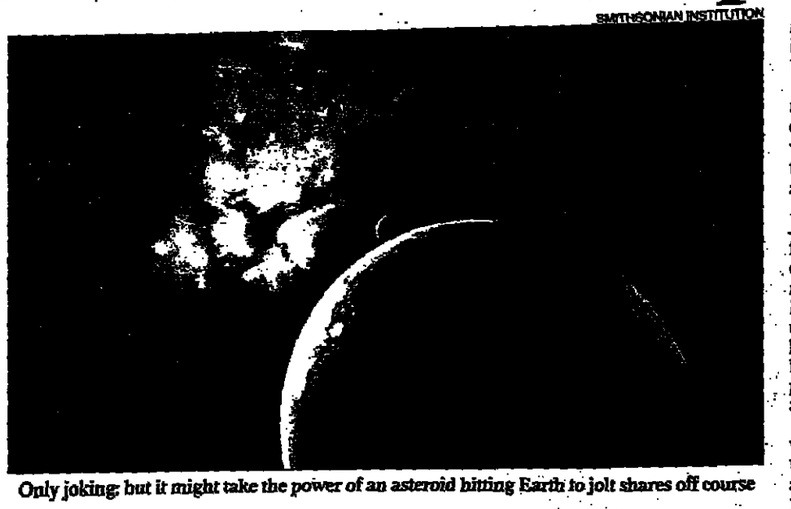
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Is the FTSE asteroid-proof?

Magnus Grimond wonders what it will take to stop London shares roaring ahead


SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Only joking: but it might take the power of an asteroid hitting Earth to jolt shares off course

The Budget did nothing to dampen the euphoria of the stock market. In spite of Gordon Brown's overt attack on short-term capital gains, it seems that little short of an asteroid on a collision course with Earth will deflect shares from their upward path. Having risen by nearly 20 per cent last year, the FTSE All Share index is already up around 13 per cent in 1998. Where can it go next?

The cool and detached observer might wonder. Price-earnings ratios, the traditional measure by which a company's profits are related to its share price, have rarely been higher. The current figure for the all-share index of over 21 has been matched only on a handful of occasions in the past 30 years or so. P/Es passing through the high teens have usually been the harbinger of at least a setback in the stock market, sometimes a crash, as in 1987, and once in a generation a meltdown of 1973-74 proportions. But as everyone keeps telling us, things are different today. Then the three-day week exemplified labour costs out of control, the Arab oil embargo sent oil prices soaring and inflation was about to shoot skywards. Now, in the words of Ian Morley, a director at fund manager AIB Govett, "a whole combination of fairly sublime conditions" is keeping global growth strong. While the economic background is propelling corporate earnings, other factors are pushing people into equities. Retirement provision is being handed back to individuals by governments when the double-digit returns from shares are making historically low deposit rates look pedestrian.

For the UK, this "new paradigm" comes in the shape of a managed, soft landing for the economy. Last week's economic figures combining lower retail sales in February with a smaller than expected rise in workers' earnings in January seemed to confirm the best expectations of the bulls.

"It suggests an economy not screaming out for a rate rise. We think [rates] have reached the peak now," says David McBain, UK market follower at NatWest Markets. But he adds, significantly, "with things as finely balanced as they are, we could be wrong."

The comparisons with February 1994, the start of the last significant bear phase in the market, are instructive. A long bull market in bonds screwed gilt yields to 6½ per cent (today they are at 6 per cent or below) when the US Federal Reserve unexpectedly raised interest rates for the first time in five years. But then, says Mr McBain, people were looking at a pick-up in inflation. Now worldwide concerns are more about deflation.

In addition, the new independent Monetary Policy Committee setting UK monetary policy (MPC) is less likely to overreact. "You might see another interest rate rise from the MPC, but I don't think another stream of rate rises is in the offing." Nils Taube, the fund manager who gained a reputation for selling part of his portfolio short ahead of the 1987 crash, commented:

"I would be surprised with this huge weight of money coming into shares from individuals and institutions that the market was about to have an immediate crash."

Now managing the St James Place and RIT Capital funds, he says there is no sign of the wild buying of shares now becoming apparent in Italy and the US. Moreover, unlike 1987, the bond market has not cracked. Even so, he is keeping up to 25 per cent of his portfolios in liquid funds, against a usual 10 per cent.

"Using every yardstick of valuation, this market is extremely high and will be lower at some stage over the next two years. But it is impossible to say how much higher it will get in the meantime."

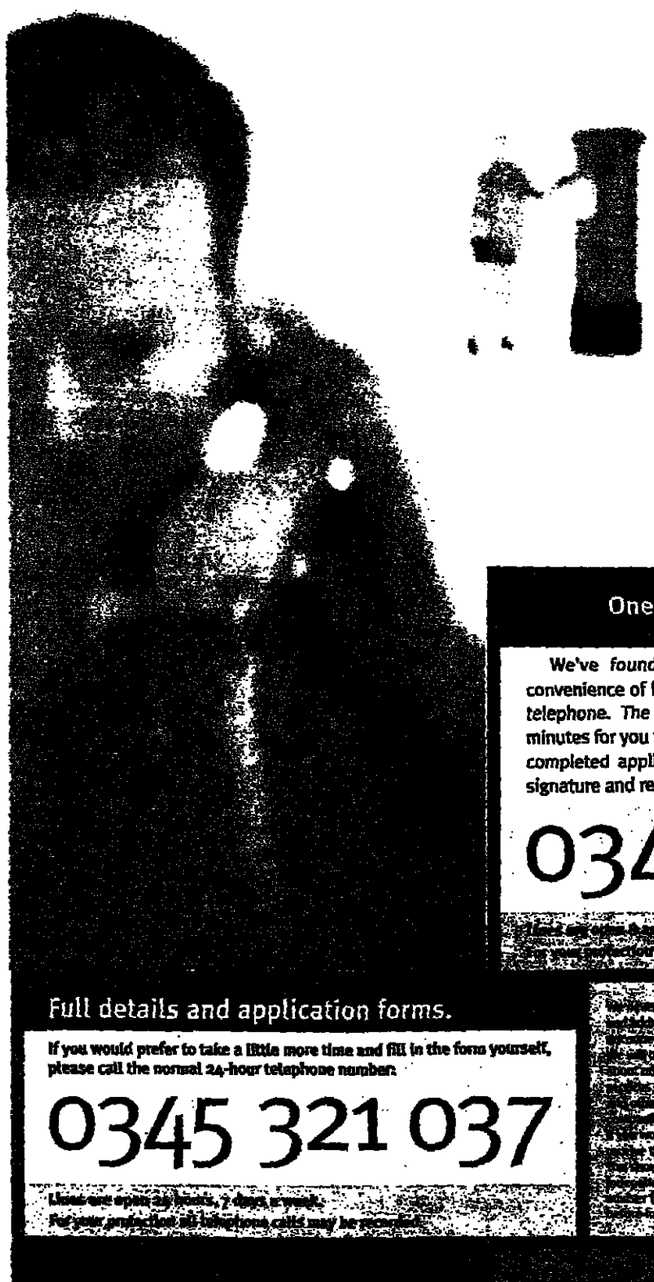
One of the key influences will be the US. Wall Street has an uncanny influence over London's market. Partly this is sentiment, as the biggest equity market in the world, and partly it is because so many British companies own US assets. But increasingly US institutions are becoming big players in London too, now holding around 15 per cent of the market. John Hatherley, head of research at the fund managers M&G, says the next round of US results, starting in early April, will be crucial. So far Wall street has shrugged off profits warnings from former glamour stocks such as Compaq, Intel and Motorola. But with suggestions the full fallout from the Asian debacle is to come, there could be shocks in store.

If you cannot decide whether you are a bull or a bear, take comfort from Nils Taube. "People who get the market right usually get it right by accident." The real winners will follow his example from 1987 and buy back in after the collapse when everyone else fears to tread.

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When you depend on the State

Helen Pridham with a new series to help explain the pensions maze



People dream of exotic holidays when they retire, but for many the reality is less rosy

Compulsory pension contributions could form part of the Government's planned overhaul of the welfare state, due to be unveiled next week.

The report will push pensions further into the limelight, but for the time-being will do little to lessen the confusion we all feel about the subject. People are becoming more aware of the need to plan for retirement, and 25 per cent of 22-year-olds have already started making pension contributions. But they are still bewildered.

It is not just company and personal pensions that are regarded as difficult to understand. State pensions can be equally mystifying. Researchers for the Association of British Insurers found that the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps) was seen as the hardest to understand. So what can you expect from the State when you retire? At present, you could qualify for up to three different types of state pensions:

■ **The basic state retirement pension:** Everyone is potentially eligible for a basic state retirement pension when they reach state retirement age, currently 65 for men and 60 for women. However, this pension is not yours by right. You must have made a sufficient number of national insurance contributions to be entitled to the full amount. For men, this normally involves having made about 44 years of contributions, while women should have 39 years. If your NI record is not up to scratch, you will get a reduced amount but for the minimum pension of 25 per cent you must have contributed for at least ten years.

■ **Graduated retirement benefit:** If you were an employee between April 1961 and April 1975, and earned more than £9 a week, you will have paid graduated NI contributions. These will provide you with a graduated pension benefit. The amount you get will depend on how many "units" you paid for at the time and the value of these units when you claim your pension. But the maximum extra benefit is currently less than £7 a week

■ **The state earnings related pension scheme (Serps):** When first introduced in 1978, everyone who was an employee became a member of Serps unless they were a member of an employer's pension scheme that provided a replacement company pension. The other exception was the self-employed. However, since July 1988, it has been possible for employees to "opt out" of Serps and have that part of their NI contributions paid into their own personal pension.

Serps was originally intended to provide a pension of 25 per cent of the average of your best 20 years' earnings (though only those earnings on which NI contributions were paid actually counted). If you reach state pension age before April 6, 1999, that is what you will get. But if your retirement date is after that time, the amount is reduced. Under changes introduced by the last Government, the best 20 years rule has been dropped and earnings will be averaged over your whole working life, and the percentage falls from 25 per cent to 20 per cent. This will be phased in between 2000 and 2010. For details on Serps, get leaflet *NP 46 A Guide to Retirement Pensions* at your Social Security office.

■ **A pension forecast:** To find out how much state pension you are likely to receive, you can request a pension forecast at any time up to four months before you reach pensionable age. To get a forecast, obtain form *BR19* from your Social Security office, and return it to the address on the form.

■ **Women and the state pension:** Many married women reaching retirement age today do not qualify for a full basic pension. This is because they may have opted in the past to pay the reduced rate married woman's NI contribution or have not worked or earned enough to build up their contribution record. In these circumstances, a husband will usually receive a spouse's pension in addition to his own, usually called "the married couple's state pension". But this is not paid until the husband is 65.

Where a couple are the same age, or the wife is older, it may be worth considering topping up her NI contributions by Class 3 voluntary contributions so that she gets some pension at 60. However, this is only worthwhile if it would give her at least ten qualifying years so she could claim the minimum state pension. For example, if the wife has made seven years' contributions at some time in the past, a further three years' contributions could be made.

Voluntary contributions can be backdated up to six years and paid as a lump sum. The rate is currently £6.05 per week but if contributions are paid before the end of the second tax year after they were due, the rate for the relevant year is payable. For earlier contributions the current rate applies. So, someone who wanted to pay, for example, for the past three tax years from April 1994 to April 1997, the lump sum would be just over £900. If a 25 per cent pension, currently £15.60 per week, then became payable, it would take just over a year for the payment to be recouped. If a wife received such a pension for several years until her husband reached 65, a couple would be several thousand pounds better off.

A wife considering this should ask for a pension forecast to show exactly how much she would have to pay. For more details about voluntary contributions you can ask your Social Security office for leaflet *CA08 National Insurance Voluntary Contributions.*

Younger women are less likely to encounter this problem because it has not been possible to opt for the married women's stamp since April 1977. Also, home responsibilities protection (HRP) was introduced in April 1978 to help to maintain state pension rights for women who stay at home to look after children or dependent relatives. HRP is given automatically to the main person in receipt of child benefit for a child under age 16 for a whole tax year. However, women will still need to have paid NI contributions for at least 20 years to qualify for a full basic pension. For more details about HRP, ask your social security office for form *CF411 How To Protect Your State Retirement Pension If You Are Looking After Someone At Home.*

■ **Equalisation of pension ages:** Between 2010 and 2020, the retirement age for women will be gradually increased to bring it into line with men. Women born between April 5,1950 and April 6, 1955 will have a pensionable age between 60 and 65. Those born later will have a pensionable age of 65. For exact dates see Table 1 in the leaflet *NP46, A Guide to Retirement Pensions.*

■ **Current state pension rates:** Single person, £62.45 per week, Married couple, £99.80 per week, maximum graduated benefit £6.97 for men, £5.83 for women per week, Serps maximum pension, £103.57 per week.

Next week: Opting out of Serps and should older people opt back in.

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Reference number: 313B12

*Source: Scottish Widows. Returns on 1 November 1997 on a regular saving amount of £50 a month from November 1987 to October 1997 inclusive. Relates to a man aged 24 for the 10 year cash option value of a similar plan to the Premier Savings Plan. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. With profits maturity and surrender values cannot be guaranteed in advance. The information given here is based on Scottish Widows' understanding of current tax law and Inland Revenue practice - these may change in future.

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Helen Pridham with a warning for parents insuring teenagers

£3,000 shock as Anna passes her driving test

ROBIN MAYES



All smiles: Helen's daughter Anna Volkmer is now insured to drive her mother's car with the help of a broker

The Government may hope that this week's increases in petrol prices will help towards its goal of reducing road traffic but, for youngsters, learning to drive is as popular as ever.

Driving lessons are still at the top of many birthday present wish-lists for 17-year-olds, but this usually involves a double bill for parents — the cost of the lessons, plus extra motor insurance.

For many families the first step is often to insure their son or daughter as an extra driver under an existing policy so that they can drive the family car occasionally. But even this can add considerably to the cost, and an extra £250 excess is commonplace for a driver under 21.

The risk of 17 to 20-year-olds having an accident is about seven times greater than for drivers aged 40 or over, and although new drivers make up just 10 per cent of licence-holders, they are involved in 29 per cent of the accidents on Britain's roads.

Even so, when I asked to include my 17-year-old daughter, Anna, on my policy, I was quoted a price of more than £3,000, a 1,000 per cent or so increase on my original premium of £297. To say that I was shocked is an understatement, because the new premium was more than my nine-year-old Nissan Micra is worth.

My brokers, AA Insurance, said the reason for this steep increase was because we are a two-car family. My policy with Cornhill also insures me to drive my husband's car, so my daughter had more opportunity to drive the Nissan and therefore the cover had to be rated on her — the riskiest driver.

The fact that I have been the main driver of the Nissan for the past nine years and intend to remain so, appeared to cut no ice. However, the AA said it could get me a better deal with another insurer. But the new quote, of £915 again rated on my daughter, was equally unacceptable.

We called another national broker, Premium Search, which found us a more realistic premium of £475 from Guardian. Philip da Silva, the sales and marketing director of Premium Search, said: "Some insurers simply do not want young driver business. They specialise in the safer, older end of the market.

"If parents have cover with one of these companies, they will need to shop around if they want to add a youngster to their policy. A broker should normally be able to find them a more competitive deal."

Other insurers confirmed that it is not common practice to make assumptions about how frequently a young person will drive one particular vehicle just because a family has two cars. Miranda Seymour, at Direct Line, said: "Naturally we will ask questions to establish who will be the main user of the car. If a child is only an occasional driver we will load the premium accordingly.

"However, parents should not be tempted to buy a second car and insure it as though they are the main drivers, and then let their son or daughter drive it all the time. This could result in the policy becoming void."

If generous parents do intend to go the whole hog and buy a car for the sole use of their offspring, one way of keeping insurance costs down is to enrol them for Pass Plus — a course of six extra driving lessons to follow on from a successful driving test.

These sessions are designed to give newly qualified drivers extra experience and the positive driving skills that would otherwise take them a long time to acquire. The courses cover driving in town, out of town, in all weathers, at night, on dual carriageways and on motorways. There is no further test to take. A certificate is issued by the Driving Standards Agency on the successful completion of the course.

Although the extra lessons cost typically about £80, this can be more than offset by savings on the youngster's first year of motor insurance. The 16 motor insurers which support the scheme normally give participants the benefit of a one-year's no claim bonus.

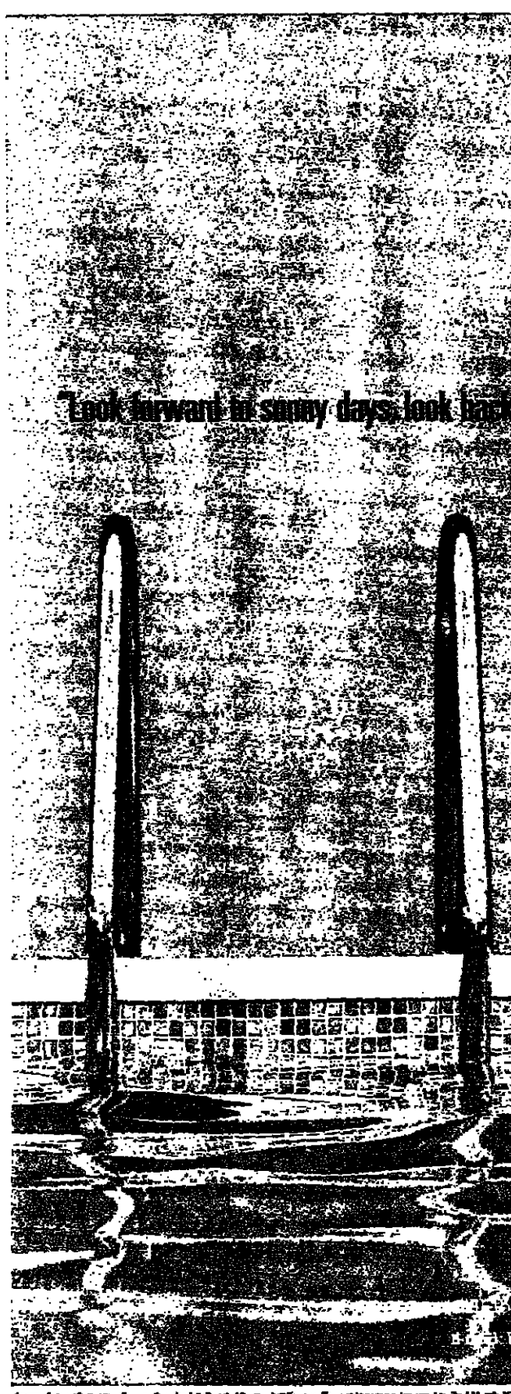
Direct Line gives a 20 per cent discount in the first year to 17 to 20-year-olds and 30 per cent for 21 to 24-year-olds.

Unfortunately no concessions are given if the driver is insured on someone else's policy. So, although my daughter has nearly completed a Pass Plus course, my premiums will not be reduced. However, the discount can be carried forward for up to two years until the young driver gets his or her own car — provided no claims have been made in the meantime.

If parents were given some incentive, however, the takeup of the Pass Plus scheme might attract more drivers. It has been in existence since 1995, but has been actively promoted only for the past year. Currently, just 3 per cent of new drivers are taking the course.

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Go the independent way to beat costly car repairs

Conal Gregory warns drivers that a garage's long-term warranty may always not be the best policy

Every new car comes from the manufacturer with a basic factory warranty to repair or replace any part which breaks or will not work within a limited time or number of miles.

Yet, once the warranty expires, you have nothing to protect you from expensive repair costs.

In the enthusiasm of buying a new car, thousands of motorists unwittingly agree to extended warranties offered through dealers which can be far more expensive than others available elsewhere. Often they attract VAT at 17.5 per cent instead of the insurance premium tax of 4 per cent, and restrict the owner to having repairs done at a dedicated garage.

If you buy protection beyond the usual one-year from a dealer, you risk paying 50 per cent to 100 per cent more than by going directly to a specialist. By eliminating the middle man, that is the dealer, you can make savings on new or used-car warranties.

Next week the competition will intensify when Motor Warranty Direct insurers launches its policy for new cars, which will rival the AA and those who act directly for dealers.

As the table shows, substantial savings can be made. For a small Citroën or Renault it can cost more than double to insure the parts for a year with a scheme promoted through the manufacturers' dealer franchise than with an independent (£172 or £177.50 against £79). If it is a two-litre car, the difference can be between £237 (Citroën's own scheme) or £210 (Vauxhall) and £160 or £165 (Motor Warranty Direct and the AA).

Apart from the saving on the premium, many manufacturers' warranties will not allow renewals. You have to decide how long to take out the insurance for when you buy the car — and to pay for it at that time. An independent will usually require a deposit of 20 per cent and the balance paid when the warranty starts.

Most manufacturers' schemes require you to use their facilities and have the vehicle repaired at the dealership where you bought the policy. It may, however, be more convenient to have the freedom to select any garage.

It is advisable also to watch the time or mileage limits on the policy. The AA will cover vehicles which are under eight years old and have covered fewer than 100,000 miles before the policy is taken out, but will then accept unlimited mileage.

Vauxhall Sureguard's cover, however, sets an annual limit of 15,000 miles. For a vehicle to join the Citroën scheme, it must be less than one year from the date of registration and to have travelled under 24,000 miles. The Peugeot warranty can be only extended beyond five years if it has covered less than 60,000 miles.

Motor Warranty Direct will protect a vehicle that is less than ten years old and has completed less than 100,000 miles, provided it has passed the MoT and has been serviced in the past year.

When taking out a warranty, you should ask whether breakdown assistance and towing to the nearest garage are included as well as repair or hire of a replacement vehicle. Some warranties allow you to claim the cost of overnight hotel accommodation should the breakdown be more than 30 miles from your home or destination.

Replacing car parts can be more expensive than many drivers realise, and that is the advantage of taking out an extended warranty. To repair a gearbox on a Fiat Punto 55 can cost more than £1,100; to replace a Citroën AX engine cylinder, £940; and to correct the air-conditioning on a two-litre Ford Mondeo GLX, £500.

Most manufacturers' warranties are not available for used cars, which frequently only come with a three-month guarantee, so it is vital to seek cover independently. One company, ABS, is a specialist in this field and insists on inspecting the vehicle before issuing cover.

Ask if there is a discount for taking out a further warranty, because ABS, for example, will give 15 per cent off a second premium.

Two areas often overlooked are the limits per claim — with £500 certainly not being enough — and if there is an excess.

Finally, having a warranty helps the sale value of the car. Most insurers allow it to be transferred but impose an administration fee, such as £15 (AA) and £19.50 (GE Capital).



Breakdown, but the price of getting started again varies

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AA	79	165	109	219	0800 269789
ABS+	220	220	*	*	0345 419 926
Motor Warranty Direct (Used Limited to £1000 per claim)	95	135	115	162	0800 097 8001

Cost per annum	Two years after expiry of manufacturer's one year		Three years after expiry of manufacturer's one year		
AA	79	165	109	219	0800 269798
Car Care Plan/Vauxhall	160a	210a	160	210	0113 218 0000
Warranty Holdings/Renault	177.50	189	177	193	0199 265 2277
GE Capital/Citroen	172	237	178	208	0181 380 3000
Motor Warranty Direct (New Limited to value of car)	134	160	122	148	0800 097 8001

Key: Vauxhall Corsa/Vectra; Renault Clio/Megane; Citroen AX/Xantia. * Special quotations given. a Maximum 30,000 miles. + Vehicle inspection fee of £50-80 in addition

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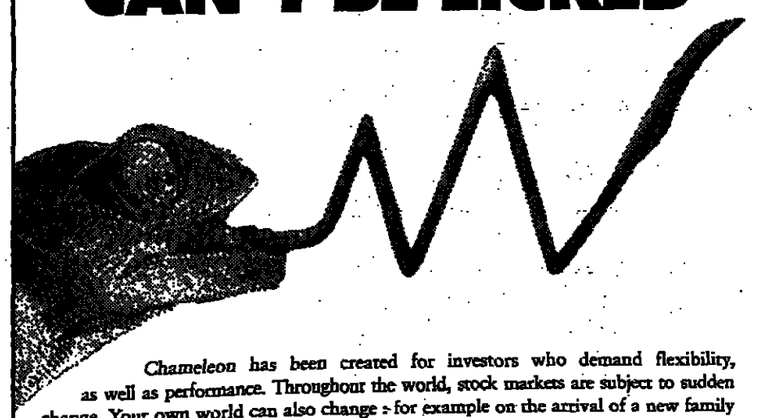
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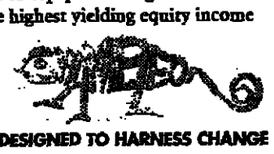


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A Budget for every family in Britain

Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, shares her Budget views with Weekend Money readers

Tuesday's Budget was a Budget for families. For business. For people who work and who want to work hard. It was a Budget for savers. An ambitious Budget for an ambitious Britain. Every family in the country will be helped by the increase in child benefit – the biggest ever. Everyone in work has seen a £70 reduction in their tax bill because of the changes in national insurance.

Working parents have been given a much-needed help with childcare. Families earning up to £30,000 will get tax relief on their childcare bills. And the working family tax credit will support lower and middle-income earners who are striving to help themselves and their families.

It marks the most fundamental overhaul of the whole tax and benefit system for a generation. An overhaul that was well overdue. It will end the scandal where you can be better off sitting at home on benefits than in a job.

It was also a Budget for savers. First, through the launch of our new tax-free savings account. Gordon Brown announced in his speech that the new savings account would be going ahead as planned in 1999.

Our goal is to spread the savings culture to all income groups. Around half the population have less than £200 saved, a quarter have nothing.

By making the new savings account flexible and accessible, we hope to encourage millions more people to save. Unlike Tessas, savers will know their money is always available when they need it without tax penalties. And a further encouragement to small savers will be that the new savings products will be available not just in banks and building societies but through the Post Office and supermarkets.

The Chancellor also announced changes as a result of our consultation on the proposals. This is hardly a surprise. If we had not intended to listen, we would not have held a consultation period. This is a Government that does listen.

So we have raised the cash limit for the first year to £3,000. And we have agreed that when the new savings accounts are launched in 1999, all the capital and accumulated earnings in Tessas and Peps will remain tax-free while still allowing an additional £5,000 a year to be saved in our new account.

But the greatest blow for those saving for retirement, or for any other reason, would be to allow inflation to get out of control again. Low inflation and economic stability are the essential conditions for prosperity. And that was the best news for all savers in the Budget.

It showed that this Government is determined to tackle for good the damaging cycle of boom and bust which has caused such devastation.

Long-term interest rates – the market's bet on the Government's future credibility – are at the lowest level for a generation.

That's all good news. But we cannot be complacent. And that means continuing to run our economy prudently and only spending what we can afford. So to fund our extra cash for children and families, we have reduced the married couple's allowance. And the new money for the NHS, education and public transport, has been funded through extra duty on petrol and cigarettes.

Buyers stamped on

BUDGET PAST HISTORY



The Chadburns had to rely on the seller dropping the price

Richard and Dorothy Chadburn were in the process of negotiating the price on their new home when Gordon Brown announced the rise in stamp duty in the Budget on Tuesday.

They had set their hearts on a three-bedroom converted barn in a small village just outside Guildford and had made an offer of £360,000 for the property. This week's increase on stamp duty on the sale of properties over £250,000 from 1.5 per cent to 2 per cent added an extra £1,800 to their bill and meant that they could not meet the seller's asking price of £365,000. Although the Chancellor made no further changes to mortgage interest relief at source (Miras) this time round, the retired couple will also be affected by the cut in Miras from 15 per cent to 10 per cent next month.

The Chancellor announced that stamp duty on the sale of properties over £500,000 went up from 2 per cent to 3 per cent. The new rates will come into effect next Tuesday, except for contracts exchanged before or on Budget day. Anyone exchanging in the meantime will be hit by the new rates.

The move will affect an estimated 30,000 residential and 20,000 land and commercial properties. But despite Mr Brown's announcement that the change leaves 98 per cent of house transactions unaffected, London and the South East, where property prices are higher, will bear most of the costs.

According to figures from the Land Registry, the average price of a detached house last autumn was £236,876 in London and £156,433 in the South East. This compares with £91,880 in the North, £107,532 in the West Midlands and £84,001 in Wales.

Mrs Chadburn, 60, said: "It's very difficult in the South East. I feel rather strongly that the South East has been hit so hard. Houses down here are always more expensive, while salaries can be the same as in the rest of the country. You can do a great deal more when buying a house in the rest of the country."

The couple who have three grown-up children and a granddaughter, have been looking for a new home for over a year and wanted a house with enough rooms to accommodate visiting family and friends. During this time stamp duty has increased twice. The last rise took place in the Chancellor's first Budget in July. Stamp duty was increased from 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent on purchases above £250,000 and to 2 per cent on purchases over £500,000.

This week Mr Brown announced there would be no change to either the £60,000 threshold, up to which transfers are free of stamp duty, or to the 1 per cent rate, which applies to transfers between £60,000 and £250,000. The 0.5 per cent rate of duty on transfers of shares remains unaffected.

Mr and Mrs Chadburn were still able to buy the new property because the seller recognised the impact the new rate would have and was prepared to settle for the lower price of £361,500. Mrs Chadburn said: "It would have thrown us if our nice fellow hadn't come down. But luckily he was very understanding."

SUSAN EMMETT

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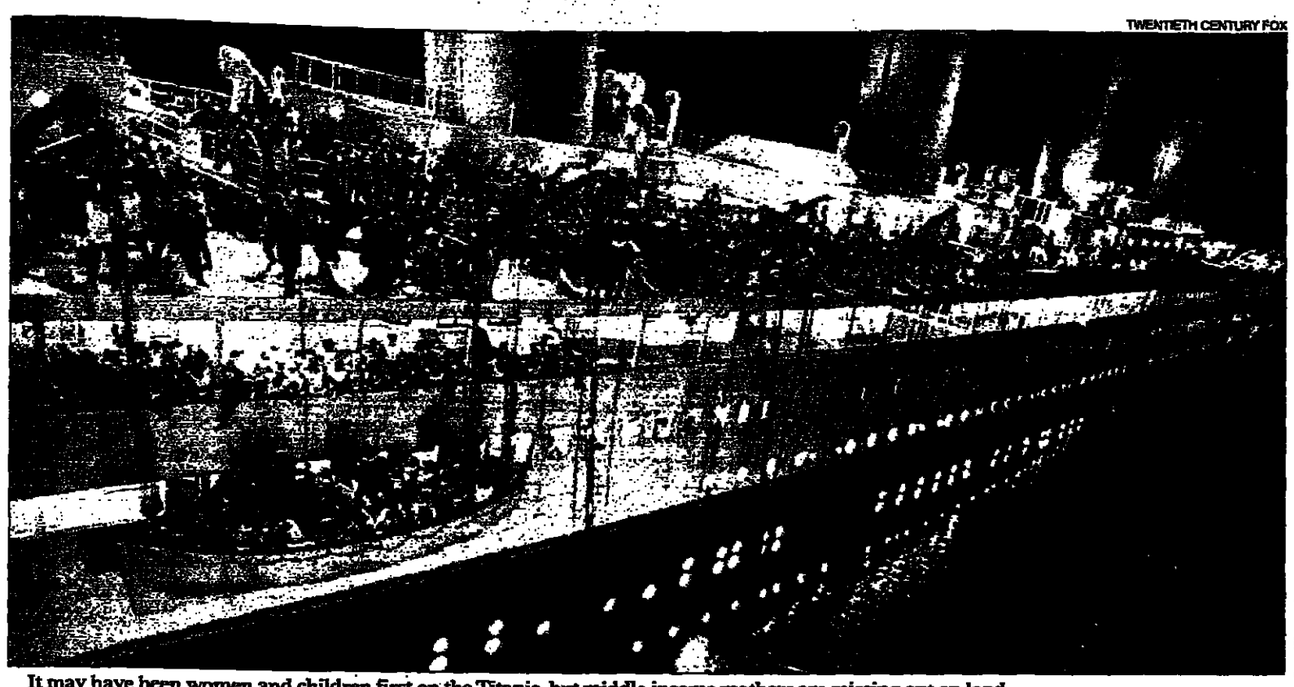
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Mum's the word, but some may miss out on new benefits, says **Susan Emmett**

Women and children first



It may have been women and children first on the Titanic, but middle-income mothers are missing out on land

When the Chancellor put women and children first in the Budget, perhaps he had Mothering Sunday, which is tomorrow, on his mind. But, while increases in child benefit and help with childcare costs might in some homes be as welcome as the flowers and cards that will adorn mantelpieces, middle-income mothers may find that they miss out on the party.

Research by Legal & General shows 44 per cent of today's mothers say that child benefit is the most important state benefit for women. This is closely followed by maternity benefit, state pension, family credit and income support. The survey also reveals that 75 per cent of mothers believe better childcare facilities would have a big impact.

CHILDCARE

While the concept of child benefit as a universal right survived the Chancellor's brush this time round, Gordon Brown did raise the prospect of taxing child benefit for higher-rate taxpayers.

Such a move would probably require the repeal of the independent taxation reforms which entitles husbands and wives to be taxed separately. This would rob wives of a hard-won freedom, but would enable the Chancellor to tax the cash as the income of the husband, who is more likely to be a higher-rate taxpayer.

However, for now, mothers can celebrate this week's announcement of a rise in child benefit of over 20 per cent. From April 1999, child benefit for the first child will be increased by £2.50 a week in addition to the annual uprating for inflation. Child benefit is also due to go up from £11.05 to £11.45 for the eldest child next month.

Those on income support will receive a further boost from November this year. Those with children under 11 will get another £2.50 a week under the existing family credit scheme, which will be replaced by the Working Family's Tax Credit (WFTC) from October 1999.

Help with childcare costs, which is also part of the new WFTC, will help many working mothers and those who want to work.

However, the measure is of limited value for a lot of working people. The new childcare tax credit will cover up to 70 per cent of childcare costs, up to a ceiling on costs of £100 per week for families with one child and £150 for those with two or more.

The credit will be paid in full for one-child families earning £14,000 and those with more than one child earning £17,000. But help will gradually taper off. One-child families earning over £22,000 or those with two-children earning over £30,000 can expect no help.

Looking beyond the Budget, the level of pension and insurance provision for mothers remains woefully inadequate.

PENSIONS

Inadequate pension provision is a key contributing factor to women facing hardship in later life. Under current rules, non-working mothers cannot contribute to a formal pension scheme because they will not have the net relevant earnings.

Even mothers who work part-time may not be able to contribute to one unless they earn above a certain amount. In many cases making pension arrangements is left to the man. But with the number of marital break-ups increasing, women would be wise to make their own provisions.

If setting up a pension plan is out of the question, Peps, Tessas or their new replacement, individual savings accounts (Isas), are a viable way to save for the future. Working mothers however, should think about setting up a pension plan sooner rather than later. Waiting until the children have left home may be too late.

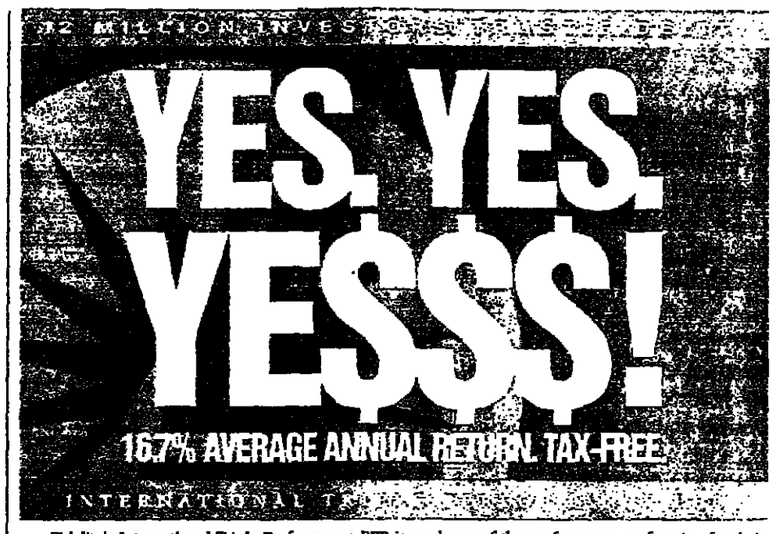
According to *Life & Pensions Moneyfacts*, most pension companies will allow a premium holiday. The bad news is your pension would continue to incur annual fees and management fees. On your return to work, you simply notify your pension company and restart your direct debit and your pension will continue on its normal course.

INSURANCE

Life Assurance is important for anyone with dependants, whether you are working or not. Just because they are not working and earning an income, many women do not think about the financial consequences about not being able to look after their children.

According to recent statistics most women have their first child at the age of 28, and *Life & Pensions Moneyfacts* lists Equitable Life, Eurolife and Legal & General as the best 20-year term policies for 30-year-old non-smoking women.

Critical illness cover is also important, with cancer and other critical illnesses on the increase. One in 12 women will suffer from breast cancer and one in ten will suffer a stroke before the age of 35. Becoming ill or disabled and being unable to look after the children or even themselves may mean that a nanny or some kind of home help may be needed.



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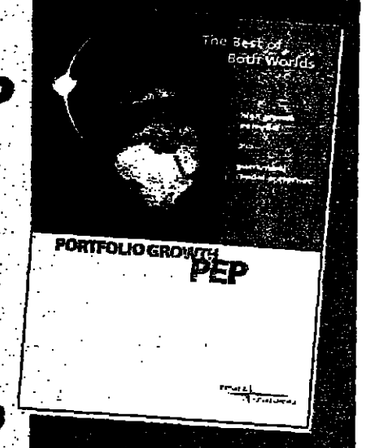
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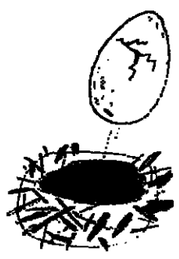
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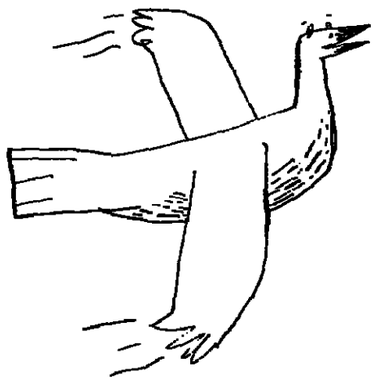
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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Free seminars for private investors

A series of forums for private investors are to be held throughout Britain between April and the end of the year. Admission will be free for each seminar and seating for 300 people.

Organised by the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC), the forums will cover a wide range of topics, including investment trust performance, how to choose an investment trust, and what can go wrong. Investors will have the opportunity to put questions to a panel of experts. Dates and details from AITC, telephone 0171-282 5555.

Age Concern Financial Services has published a free information sheet clarifying the Chancellor's individual savings account announcement in the Budget. Questions answered include "What tax advantages will the Isa offer?", "Should I continue investing in Peps?","Who will sell Isas?", "What investments can I hold?", and "Will they have any time limits?" Telephone 01883-834 004.

Chartwell Investment, the fee-based independent financial adviser, has produced a survey which assesses regular premium personal pensions. *The Chartwell Guide to Clean Personal Pensions* outlines those providers which it considers to offer low charging structures and which are totally flexible when it comes to stopping, restarting, reducing or increasing the premiums. According to Chartwell's findings, this flexibility is not available from at least two thirds of personal pension providers. Send a cheque for £12.50 to Chartwell Investment Management Ltd, 18 Brock Street, Bath, BA1 2LW.

David Aaron Partnership, the independent financial adviser, has published a guide to the Budget. *The 1998 Budget Bulletin*, identifies the Chancellor's main proposals, reviews the tax system as it is at present and as it will be for the rest of this year, and looks ahead to known or likely future changes in taxation.

A 24-page *Guide to Venture Capital Trusts* shows the tax advantages for investors, the features of the funds which are now available, and how the Budget affects VCTs.

For a free copy of either guide, telephone 01908-281 544.

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Northern Rock 0845 600 6767	Save Dir Inst	InstantB	£5,000	7.80	Yly

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Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Scarborough 30	30 day	£1,000	7.60	Yly
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Postal 30	30 day p	£10,000	7.80	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct	60 day B	£10,000	8.00	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Base Plus	1 year	£2,001	8.00	Yly

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Bradford & Bingley BS 0800 592588		5 year	£500	8.00	Yly
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CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.57%N	6.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.69%NC	8.60%N	Nil

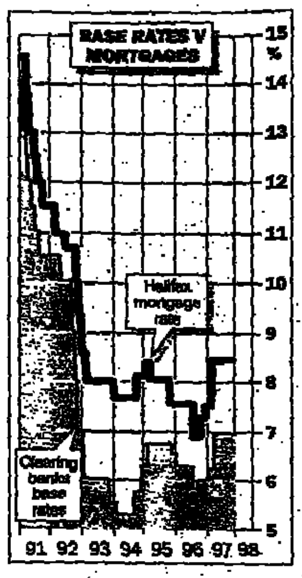
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

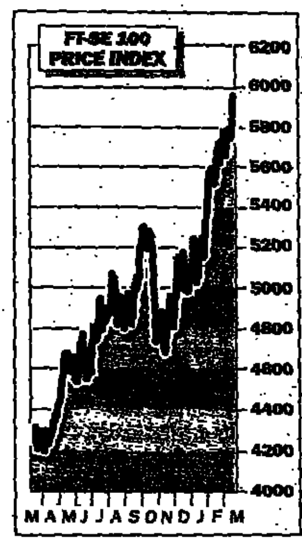
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock 0345 421421	9.90%H	£183.13	£166.11
Yorkshire Bank 0800 202122	12.50%	£190.33	£165.77
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Operated by post or telephone, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate, H = If insurance not arranged APR 12.7 per cent, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = Operated by Post, T = Operated by Telephone.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	2.00	1.60	1.20	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*s	4.75	3.80	2.85	1-499***	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* s	7.00	5.60	4.20	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond‡	6.75	5.40	4.05	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
45th Issue Cert†‡ s	5.00			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.25			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond‡ s	6.25	5.00	3.75	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
12th Ind Linked†s	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S4 s	6.50	5.20	3.90	500-50,000s	60day	0645 645000

[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free; inst accs for up to £100 [2] Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years *0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ *£100,000 jt in addition to S1, S2 and S3 holdings ¹Taxable but cred in full ¹£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Sun Life ....Level	£ 8,640	£ 9,772	£11,298
Canada Life..........Level	£ 8,667	£ 9,754	£11,235
Commercial Un....Level	£ 8,322	£ 9,632	£11,362
Standard Lf..........Level	£ 8,516	£ 9,620	£11,048
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£ 8,542	£ 9,615	£11,071

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life ....Level	£8,005	£ 8,840	£10,048
Norwich Un ....Level	£7,827	£ 8,649	£ 9,863
Sun Life ....Level	£7,810	£ 8,631	£ 9,812
Generali ....Level	£7,658	£ 8,601	£ 9,891
Equitable Life.......Level	£7,810	£ 8,552	£ 9,622

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 / Female: Age 55	Age 65 / Age 60	Age 70 / Age 65
Sun Life ....Level	£7,405	£8,056	£ 8,962
Equitable Life.......Level	£7,435	£8,021	£ 8,842
Norwich Un ....Level	£7,360	£7,995	£ 8,768
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£7,373	£7,984	£ 8,837
Generali ....Level	£7,271	£7,942	£ 8,856

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at March 19, 1998

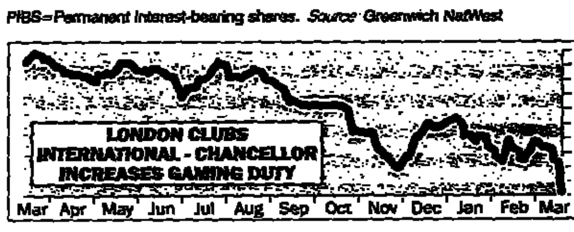
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.75
	5,000	AIG Life	6.22
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.50
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.40
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	5.95
	5,000	AIG Life	6.00
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.32
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.30
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.05
	20,000	Hambro Assured	5.95
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.00
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.40
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.90
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.30
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.80

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	129.50	7.24	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	158.75	7.32	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	175.50	7.41	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	179.00	7.26	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	165.00	7.35	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	160.00	7.34	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	187.75	7.12	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	154.50	6.96	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	180.25	7.00	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	185.25	6.95	100.48	1,000
PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS					
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	164.00	7.16	100.98	50,000
Halifax	8.750%	119.50	7.32	100.82	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	156.00	7.69	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.630%	190.75	7.14	100.00	50,000
Bristol & West	13.380%	182.00	7.35	100.34	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	172.00	7.34	100.14	1,000

PIBS=Permanent interest-bearing shares. Source: Greenwich NatWest



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Ireland 01189 684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed 6 mths Mrs dscs, £280 fee
Northern Rock[1] 0845 6050500	3.99	to £250k	75	Fixed to 1.5.00 £395 fee
Alliance & Leic 0345 108108	4.75	£20-300k	75	Fixed to 1.3.00 0.5% fee, £300 mx
Halifax 01422 333333	4.95	no max	75	Fixed to 31.3.00 £295 fee
Woolwich[2] 0181 298 5831	4.99	£15-250k	95	Fixed to 1.4.00 £350 fee

NB. [1] compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance. [2] buildings insurance only.

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.20	£1-150k	80	8.44% disc-1 yr. £250 fee
Scarborough[1] 0990 133149	0.10	to £150k	80	8.59% disc-1 yr £250 fee
Bank of Ireland 0118 9684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed 6 mths, more dscs, £280 fee
Leeds & Holbeck[1] 0113 225 7777	1.45	to £180k	95	7% disc-6 mths More discs
Mansfield 01246 202055	2.50	£25-175k	80	6% disc-6 mths, more dscs.apply

NB. [1] compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Ireland 01189 684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fix 6 mths, more dscs, £280 fee
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3.49	no max	95	Fix to 1.4.99 £295 fee
Newbury 01635 43676	5.10	£30-100k	95	3% disc-12 mnths
Wesleyan 0121 200 3003	5.35	to £100k	95	3.25% disc for 12 mnths
Alliance & Leic[1] 0345 108108	5.69	£20-300k	95	Fixed to 1.5.00 £150 fee

NB. [1] compulsory products, buildings insurance.

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Bay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482)

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Fund	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	625.60	662.10	+13.00	...
UK Equity	899.10	951.50	-26.30	...
Property	458.80	485.60	-0.50	...
Fixed Interest	374.40	396.20	-0.10	...
Money	285.30	302.00	+0.20	...
International	507.50	537.10	+9.30	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	228.80	241.90	+1.90	...
Ethical S4	202.80	213.50	+3.10	...
International S4	239.50	252.20	+3.00	...
Protected Gth S4	133.80	140.90	+0.60	...
Asian Pacific	162.90	171.40	-5.90	...
European S4	301.60	317.50	+3.00	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	461.70	486.00	-0.30	...
Equity Ser 4	354.70	373.40	-10.30	...
Man Ser 4	941.30	990.90	+19.00	...
Conv Ser 4	374.50	394.30	+0.40	...
Money Ser 4	374.20	393.90	+0.40	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	458.60	482.80	-0.30	...
American Ser 4	929.70	978.70	-8.20	...
High Inc Ser 4	1101.10	1159.10	+34.60	...
Indexed Ins Ser 4	264.10	278.10	-1.50	...
Japan Ser 4	238.50	251.10	-5.40	...
Formerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd				
Security Fund	907.50	960.40	-17.30	...
British Fund	981.60	1038.80	-26.30	...
International	785.10	830.80	-14.90	...
Dollar Fund	745.90	789.30	+11.40	...
Capital Fund	754.60	798.60	+16.00	...
Income Fund	1212.60	1283.20	+35.10	...
Property Series A	586.10	622.40	-2.50	4.70
Property Units	983.80	1033.00	+4.30	...
Financial Fund	1208.60	1279.00	-33.80	...
Managed Ser A	826.50	874.70	-19.90	...
Managed Units	1496.90	1575.70	+35.90	...
High Yield Fund	1090.40	1153.90	-34.90	...
Money Series A	331.10	350.40	-0.30	...
Money Units	444.40	467.80	-0.40	...
Equity Fund	961.90	1017.90	-21.00	...
Fixed Interest	491.60	520.30	+1.00	...
Indexed Secs	229.10	242.50	-1.10	...
European Fund	1241.30	1313.60	-18.40	...
Natural Res	253.40	268.20	-1.00	...
Far East Fund	477.10	504.90	+0.03	...
Smaller Cos	760.20	804.50	-11.30	...
Special Sits	863.80	913.40	+37.60	...
Man Currency	295.40	312.60	+0.70	...
Japanese Tech	223.00	236.00	-4.10	...
U S Smaller Cos	561.90	594.70	-15.70	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	282.30	297.20	-0.30	...
Financial Ser 1	99.80	105.10	-3.70	...
Fixed Interest	415.00	436.90	-1.20	...
Gold	62.80	66.20	-2.60	...
Managed	903.60	951.20	-16.30	...
Mngd Growth	290.40	305.70	-5.70	...
Property	389.90	410.40	...	...
Residential Prop	126.10	132.80	...	...
TSB American	424.50	446.90	-5.80	...
TSB Brit Gwth	1494.90	1564.80	-62.70	...
TSB European	456.90	481.00	-6.80	...
TSB Income	700.70	737.60	-10.20	...
TSB Intl	594.40	625.70	+10.00	...
TSB Pacific	332.70	350.30	-4.10	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	471.50	496.00	+0.50	...
Equity Acc	2179.30	2294.00	-54.50	...
Property Acc	764.00	804.20	-0.30	...
Far East Acc	285.20	299.90	+0.40	...
Managed Capital	734.80	773.70	-14.30	...
-do- Acc	1053.70	1109.20	-21.90	...
Overseas Acc	1610.30	1695.10	+39.80	...
Gilt Edged Acc	646.70	680.80	+2.10	...
Amer Equity Acc	1493.30	1571.90	+27.40	...
Amer Man Acc	618.10	650.70	-11.10	...
Amer Prop Acc	123.20	129.60	-0.70	...
Distribution Bonds	29.30	30.90	+0.40	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	192.50	202.70	+0.30	...
Balanced Ser 6	1078.80	1135.60	+21.80	...
Opportunity Ser 6	254.50	268.00	-5.40	...
Distribution Ser 6	118.40	124.70	-1.60	4.91
U K Equities Ser 6	1710.10	1800.20	-43.20	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1826.70	1922.90	-43.40	...
North Amer Ser 6	751.80	791.40	-10.10	...
Far East Ser 6	460.00	484.20	-1.70	...
Europe Ser 6	672.90	708.40	-11.80	...
Intnl Ser 6	779.50	820.60	-10.50	...
Property Ser 6	827.50	871.10	+1.00	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	549.60	578.60	-1.30	...
Ind-Lnkd Ser 6	227.50	239.50	+1.10	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	342.90	358.90	+0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1477.20	1555.00	-47.10	...
-do- Initial	1030.10	1084.30	-29.00	...
Gilt Edged Acc	514.90	542.00	-1.50	...
-do- Initial	308.10	322.30	+0.60	...
International Acc	515.50	542.70	+7.10	...
-do- Initial	304.50	320.60	+4.20	...
Managed Acc	780.40	822.00	-17.40	...
-do- Initial	468.60	493.30	-10.30	...
Money Acc	332.30	349.80	+0.30	...
Property Acc	357.00	376.00	+0.30	...
-do- Initial	212.00	223.00	+0.20	...
America Acc	536.80	565.10	+5.30	...
Far East Gwth	175.90	185.20	+4.00	...
Financial Acc	692.20	728.70	-22.30	...
500 Accum	618.70	651.30	-13.10	...
Japan Acc	181.80	191.40	-5.80	...
Income Acc	836.60	880.70	-20.40	...
Special Sits Acc	380.90	400.90	-18.20	...
Units Tech Acc	221.00	232.70	+3.00	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	1190.60	1190.60	+19.61	...
Income Fund	1244.74	1310.26	+35.38	...
Extra Income	1125.75	1185.00	-34.71	...
Worldwide Gth	670.35	705.64	+5.09	...
Balanced Fund	1092.89	1150.42	+29.07	...
Smllr Cos Recov	1189.66	1252.28	-30.85	...
N Amer & Genrl	627.69	660.73	-3.60	...
Pacific Basin	297.49	313.15	-13.63	...
German Growth	357.51	376.33	-14.06	...
Japan Growth	125.93	132.14	-2.76	...
The UK Gth Fd	353.97	372.60	-8.51	...
Conti Euro Gth	217.67	229.13	-0.74	...
Property Fund	456.04	480.05	-1.08	...
Fixed Interest	429.83	452.46	-0.09	...
Cash Fund	322.64	339.63	-0.32	...
Managed Ins	703.61	740.65	+12.00	...
Nth Amer Recov	393.29	413.99	-6.56	...
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Managed Perf	250.30	264.80	-5.30	...
Performance Plus	282.60	299.00	-5.80	...
With Profit Perf	202.80	214.50	-0.30	...
UK Opportunity	349.90	370.20	+11.60	...
Euro Opportunity	366.30	387.60	-2.90	...
North Amer Opp	322.30	341.00	-6.10	...
Far East Opp	176.00	186.20	-2.10	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	186.60	196.50	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	245.00	259.20	-0.20	...
Fixed Int	265.70	281.30	...	...
Cash	180.60	191.00	-0.10	6.49
Overseas	325.70	344.60	+6.60	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	524.30	551.90	-11.10	...
UK Equity	1058.40	1114.20	-34.90	...
Property	338.10	355.90	-0.20	...
Money Market	286.20	301.30	-0.20	...
Fixed Interest	386.00	406.40	...	...
Japan	252.10	265.40	-5.60	...
North America	286.80	301.90	-5.40	...
International	503.30	529.80	-10.20	...
European	468.50	493.20	-3.60	...
Far East	130.30	137.20	+1.50	...
CANADA LIFE 24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	487.90	513.60	-10.20	...
Property	304.00	320.00	-0.20	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	306.20	322.40	-0.50	...
Equity	632.60	665.90	-19.30	...
Cash	244.10	257.00	-0.30	...
CLife Euro Mgd	596.40	627.80	-9.70	...
CLife Intl Fd	399.90	421.00	-3.70	...
Managed Fund	1041.50	1096.30	-21.80	...
Property Fund	624.70	657.60	-0.60	...
Equity Fund	1561.00	1643.20	-47.50	...
Gilt Edged Fd	785.10	831.70	-1.20	...
Deposit Fund	376.80	396.60	-0.30	...
Investment Fd	694.40	731.20	-25.90	...
International	636.50	670.00	-5.60	...
Formerly Albany Life				
UK Equity	2450.00	2578.90	+37.50	...
Merc European	657.10	691.70	+7.30	...
Merc Fxd Int	648.10	682.10	+1.40	...
Gtd Money	380.70	400.70	+0.40	...
Mercury Intl Mgd	894.10	941.10	+27.10	...
Merc Int Fxd Int	384.50	405.00	-1.00	...
Mercury Japan	198.30	208.70	-4.70	...
Merc Nth Amer	559.50	588.90	-8.80	...
UK Property	525.20	552.80	+1.20	...
Merc Multip Inv	1461.40	1537.90	+18.50	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	227.00	239.00	...	...
Managed Fund	957.00	1007.40	+16.90	...
Equity Fund	620.60	653.30	+15.10	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	427.70	450.30	+8.50	...
Ruby	226.90	238.90	+1.90	...
Emerald	179.00	188.50	+0.50	...
Equity	551.90	581.00	-16.00	...
Property	262.60	276.50	-0.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	267.80	281.90	+0.50	...
Indexed Secs	210.50	221.60	+1.30	...
Cash	213.20	224.30	+0.20	...
Nth American	423.30	445.60	+6.50	...
Far East	229.90	242.00	-2.40	...
International	315.10	331.70	+3.80	...
Special Sits	575.50	605.80	+3.70	...
Intl Income	513.70	541.80	+14.90	...
European	581.30	615.30	+6.80	...
Japanese	92.20	97.00	-1.80	...
SE Asia	124.80	142.00	+7.70	...
With Profits Stg	201.50	212.10	+0.10	...
-do- Spec	201.90	212.50	+0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	912.30	[illegible]	+8.90	...
Equity	710.80	748.30	+16.90	...
Property	230.00	242.20	+0.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	256.80	270.20	-0.90	...
Index Linked	228.50	240.60	+1.40	...
Cash	297.70	313.40	-0.40	...
Nth American	533.50	561.60	+9.00	...
Far East Acc	240.90	253.60	-1.20	...
International Acc	395.50	416.30	+4.30	...
Special Sits	876.10	922.20	+6.50	...
European Flex	865.30	910.90	+14.80	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units Ret 1	292.20	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker 1	480.30	...	...	...
-do- Cash	228.85	241.00	+0.19	...
-do- Equity	651.97	686.31	+8.51	...
-do- Fxd Int	482.40	496.74	+1.17	...
-do- Managed	599.58	620.80	+4.07	...
-do- Property	467.49	492.09	+0.14	...
(Pensr Cash Cap	221.20	232.85	+0.13	...
-do- Cash Inv	363.38	382.51	+0.47	...
-do- Equity Cap	2266.95	2386.27	+51.57	...
-do- Equity Inv	3724.05	3920.06	+87.29	...
-do- Fixed Cap	496.32	522.45	+0.40	...
-do- Fixed Inv	815.34	858.26	+1.23	...
-do- Index Cap	237.44	249.95	-1.44	...
-do- Index Inv	390.06	410.60	+2.63	...
-do- Mngd Cap	878.07	924.29	+18.05	...
-do- Mngd Inv	1442.46	1518.39	+30.66	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) 1	1302.70	...	+6.64	...
Var Ann (5) 1	140.01	...	-0.48	...
Prime Managed	599.10	630.70	-13.20	...
Prime UK Equity	840.00	884.30	-25.00	...
Prime Int Equity	372.70	392.40	+4.50	...
Prime Property	284.10	299.10	+0.40	...
Prime Fxd Int	293.20	308.70	+3.00	...
Prime Index-Lnk	210.00	221.10	+1.40	...
Prime Cash	234.30	246.70	+0.30	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1571.70	1654.40	-1.90	...
Equity II	2514.90	2647.20	-6.60	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
UI Wth Pfts (5&6) 1	121.00	...	+0.10	...
Secure (2) 1	114.00	...	+0.10	...
Managed (3) 1	142.50	...	+2.60	...
Equity Mngd (3) 1	143.30	...	-3.10	...
Adventurous (3) 1	129.30	...	+1.20	...
Bristol & West (2) 1	116.30	...	-0.20	...
Equity Mgd 51	347.20	365.50	+7.90	...
Managed 51	342.60	360.70	+6.50	...
Adventurous 51	265.70	279.70	+2.40	...
Managed (2)	233.10	245.40	+4.40	...
Eagle/Mid Uts	461.30	478.10	+10.40	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) 1	122.20	...	+0.20	...
Secure (2) 1	115.60	...	+0.20	...
Managed (2) 1	145.40	...	+3.20	...
Equity Mngd (2) 1	149.00	...	+3.90	...
Adventurous (2) 1	131.00	...	+1.40	...
Bristol & West (2) 1	119.10	...	+0.20	...
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	466.60	491.20	+9.90	...
UK Equity	727.10	[illegible]	+22.10	...
Stewardship	590.80	[illegible]	+14.00	...
Overseas Equity	412.90	434.70	+6.10	...
North American	262.80	276.70	+3.20	...
Pacific Basin	130.70	137.10	-0.30	...
European	433.90	456.80	+6.80	...
Property	213.70	225.00	-0.20	...
Fixed Interest	310.10	326.50	+0.70	...
Index Linked	209.00	220.10	+1.40	...
Cash	230.80	243.00	+0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	683.40	719.30	+5.90	...
Managed	1063.10	1111.90	-17.80	...
Deposit	395.00	415.70	+0.80	...
Property	594.20	625.40	-0.40	...
American	744.00	783.10	+9.40	...
Australian	685.50	721.50	+0.90	...
European	1079.70	1136.50	-20.10	...
Income Acc	1255.30	1321.30	+40.20	...
-do- Dist	680.30	716.10	-26.60	3.97
International	444.80	468.20	+7.20	...
Japan Smaller	252.20	265.40	-6.00	...
Singapore & Mal	297.50	302.60	-4.20	...
Tokyo Fund	520.20	547.50	-7.30	...
UK Equity	968.40	1019.20	-30.40	...
CCM Vangd Mg	1141.30	1201.30	-27.20	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	244.10	257.00	+0.12	...
GT Plan Wwide	621.30	654.00	-2.80	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	917.70	917.70	-18.22	...
-do- Inv A	917.60	966.00	-19.21	...
UK Equity	652.30	686.80	-20.90	...
Gilt Plus	250.20	263.50	-0.19	...
Managed	420.10	442.20	-9.60	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	309.70	325.90	-6.10	...
Unitised Profit	172.40	181.40	-0.20	...
UK Equity	493.50	519.40	-14.30	...
Fixed Int	268.50	299.30	-0.40	...
Index-Linked	202.90	213.50	+1.30	...
Cash Deposit	198.10	208.50	+0.20	...
Property	207.60	218.40	+0.10	...
International	297.10	309.50	+4.40	...
American	301.00	317.00	+4.40	...
Japan	173.00	182.00	-3.30	...
Japan Smllr Cos	176.10	185.30	-3.50	...
European	298.70	314.30	+1.40	...
Pacific Fund	208.20	219.00	+0.20	...
Ccm Life	198.60	208.90	-5.50	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	707.90	745.10	+14.20	...
Managed Initial	428.90	451.50	+6.50	...
Equity Ord	1248.40	1314.10	-36.10	...
Equity Init	756.40	796.20	-21.40	...
I Linked Gilt Ord	247.50	260.50	+1.60	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	150.60	158.90	+0.90	...
Overs Equity Ord	479.00	504.20	+3.70	...
Overs Equity Init	289.70	304.90	+2.10	...
Property Ord	322.70	339.70	-0.20	...
Property Init	195.30	205.80	...	...
Fixed Int Ord	359.20	378.10	+0.40	...
Fixed Int Init	217.10	229.10	+0.30	...
Deposit Ord	236.50	248.90	+0.20	...
Deposit Initial	143.50	150.80	+0.10	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	987.30	1028.60	...	...
Managed Initial	649.60	683.80	+15.40	...
-do- Acc	995.40	1047.80	+23.70	...
Equity Initial	1113.30	1171.90	+34.87	...
-do- Acc	1705.80	1795.60	+53.30	...
Fixed Int Initial	532.70	560.70	-0.60	...
-do- Acc	816.20	859.10	+0.90	...
Intl Initial	549.00	578.80	+8.90	...
-do- Acc	842.90	886.80	+13.50	...
Nth Amer Initial	321.10	338.00	+4.60	...
-do- Acc	447.80	471.30	+6.40	...
Pacific Initial	149.00	156.90	-1.30	...
-do- Acc	205.80	216.70	-1.80	...
Property Initial	203.40	214.10	...	...
-do- Acc	311.60	328.00	...	...
Index-Linkd Initl	187.00	196.80	-1.00	...
-do- Acc	260.70	274.40	-1.30	...
Deposit Initial	211.40	222.50	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	323.90	340.90	+0.30	...
Euro Initial	164.80	173.40	+2.30	...
-do- Acc	212.30	223.50	+2.90	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	38.04	40.04	+0.75	...
Balanced	38.18	40.19	+0.84	...
Opportunity	39.03	41.08	+0.94	...
Deposit	27.03	28.45	+0.03	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	30.19	31.78	+0.77	...
Balanced S2	30.56	32.17	+0.65	...
Opportunity S2	30.04	31.62	+0.39	...
Deposit S2	25.52	26.86	+0.04	...
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	250.00	263.10	+4.00	...
-do- Pens	333.00	350.50	+7.40	...
UK Equity	294.30	309.70	+7.80	...
-do- Pens	375.70	395.40	+12.10	...
International	189.30	199.20	+0.90	...
-do- Pens	213.20	224.40	+1.10	...
Deposit	158.10	167.40	+0.20	...
-do- Pens	196.20	206.50	+0.30	...
For Hill Samuel see Abbey Life Assurance				
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	834.60	878.50	-0.50	...
Global Property	353.30	371.90	...	...
Global Fixed Int	666.00	701.10	-0.40	...
Global Equity	922.00	968.40	+0.60	...
Global Cash	244.00	256.80	...	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
6 Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	204.80	215.60	-0.20	...
Brt Oppts Ini	226.80	238.80	-6.30	...
-do- Acc	310.40	326.80	-8.40	...
Cash Initial	173.80	183.00	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	329.90	347.30	+0.30	...
Equity Initial	1054.30	1109.80	-24.20	...
-do- Acc	2001.10	2106.50	+53.70	...
Fixed Initial	406.90	428.30	-0.50	...
-do- Acc	772.30	812.40	+1.00	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	154.60	162.80	+1.20	...
-do- Acc	250.30	263.50	+1.70	...
Intl Initial	372.10	391.70	+4.30	...
-do- Acc	695.30	731.90	+8.10	...
Managed Initial	648.60	682.80	+12.90	...
-do- Acc	1231.10	1295.90	+24.40	...
Property Initial	241.40	254.20	+2.50	...
-do- Acc	458.20	482.40	+4.30	...
LINCOLN The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ. 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	[illegible]	...	+42.00	...
Property Units	3336.00	3512.00	+3.00	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	4574.00	4814.78	+197.00	...
2nd Equity Acc	1054.00	1109.00	+30.00	...
2nd High Inc Acc	1010.00	1063.00	+30.00	...
2nd Property Acc	298.80	314.50	-0.30	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	223.00	235.00	+1.30	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	663.10	697.90	+12.90	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	301.40	317.20	+6.30	...
2nd Deposit Acc	323.30	340.30	+0.30	...
2nd Gilt Acc	386.20	406.50	+0.70	...
2nd Amer Acc	1124.00	1184.00	-15.00	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	248.10	261.10	-0.40	...
2nd Index Acc	252.10	265.30	+1.50	...
2nd Far East Acc	287.60	302.80	+0.20	...
2nd Global Acc	200.40	210.90	+2.50	...
2nd Euro Acc	259.00	272.50	+3.00	...
2nd Japan Acc	111.50	117.20	-2.60	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	177.00	186.20	-0.10	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	194.00	204.10	+0.30	...
ex-Laurentian				
Property	636.60	670.00	+0.40	...
Managed	596.10	627.30	+11.60	...
American	675.50	711.00	+8.90	...
UK Equity Fd	765.70	805.90	-22.30	...
Japan	122.70	129.10	-2.90	...
Index-Link	225.90	237.60	+1.30	...
High Yield	1404.00	1478.00	-42.00	...
Money	459.30	483.40	+0.40	...
International	450.40	474.00	+5.60	...
Perpetual Active	430.90	453.40	+8.70	...
Growth Acc	932.00	981.00	-18.20	...
Gilt Edged	547.10	575.80	+0.60	...
European	236.30	248.60	+2.70	...
Far East	141.60	148.90	+4.90	...
LONDON LIFE Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3AL 0117 984 7777				
Equity 1	1492.20	...	+38.80	...
Fixed Interest 1	569.40	...	-3.20	...
Property 1	514.10	...	+0.20	...
Deposit 1	339.60	...	+0.50	...
Mixed 1	871.30	...	+16.40	...
Indexed Stock 1	278.90	...	+1.60	...
International 1	347.40	...	-4.20	...
Equity A 1	344.60	...	-8.90	...
Fixed Int A 1	251.50	...	+1.40	...
Property A 1	225.00	...	+0.10	...
Deposit A 1	198.70	...	+0.20	...
Mixed A 1	285.10	...	+5.40	...
Index Stock A 1	217.40	...	+1.20	...
International A 1	316.10	...	+2.60	...
Equity P 1	1348.20	...	+42.30	...
Fixed Int P 1	791.10	...	-4.80	...
Property P 1	395.10	...	+0.20	...
Deposit P 1	410.00	...	+0.90	...
Mixed P 1	850.80	...	+18.80	...
Index Stock P 1	322.10	...	+2.20	...
International P 1	428.00	...	+6.10	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282484				
Inv Trust Cap 1	706.30	...	-18.20	...
-do- Acc 1	1369.20	...	-36.40	...
Property Cap 1	147.50	...	...	...
-do- Acc 1	261.30	...	-0.20	...
Fxd Interest Cap 1	218.30	...	-0.20	...
-do- Acc 1	408.60	...	+0.10	...
Equity Cap 1	474.40	...	+14.00	...
-do- Acc 1	901.90	...	+28.50	...
Internatl Cap 1	265.40	...	+3.30	...
-do- Acc 1	497.90	...	+6.60	...
Gtd Deposit Cap 1	159.20	...	...	...
-do- Acc 1	294.40	...	+0.20	7.30
Flexible Cap 1	447.80	...	-9.20	...
-do- Acc 1	846.70	...	-18.00	...
Moneymaker Fd 1	633.40	...	-11.10	...
Capital Growth 1	2008.70	...	-83.60	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	730.10	768.70	+17.70	...
Amer Rec Bond	834.60	870.40	-3.40	...
Am Smllr Cos Bd	342.20	360.40	-0.90	...
Australasia Bd	295.70	310.50	-0.50	...
Commodity Bond	321.50	337.70	-0.90	...
Deposit Bond Acc	412.20	433.90	+0.40	...
Equity Bond Acc	2297.40	2412.30	+65.40	...
European Bd Acc	677.70	711.70	-7.00	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	1277.80	1341.80	-52.30	...
Gilt Bond Acc	574.60	603.40	+1.10	...
Gold Bond Acc	120.30	126.40	-1.10	...
High Yield Bond	513.70	539.40	+23.10	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	254.80	267.70	+1.40	...
International Bd	971.60	1020.50	+16.40	...
Japan Bond Acc	155.40	163.30	-3.50	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	165.20	173.50	-3.70	...
Managed Bonds	1236.80	1298.70	+30.30	...
Prop Bond Acc	629.60	661.20	+4.90	...
Rec Bond Acc	1252.90	1315.60	-43.90	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	257.60	270.50	+7.90	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	356.80	375.60	+10.00	...
UK Equity Acc	564.00	594.40	-16.10	...
Special Sits	150.00	157.90	+4.60	...
Special Sits Acc	237.40	249.90	+7.30	...
North American	296.60	312.30	-2.90	...
N American Acc	469.50	494.30	+4.80	...
Pacific Basin	269.40	283.60	-2.70	...
Pacific Basin Acc	426.40	448.90	-4.50	...
Fixed Interest	328.80	346.20	...	...
Fixed Interest Acc	521.10	548.60	+0.60	...
Property	200.90	211.50	+0.10	...
Property Acc	318.30	335.10	+0.20	...
Deposit	157.20	165.50	...	...
Deposit Acc	249.20	262.40	+0.40	...
Managed	359.30	378.30	-7.10	...
Managed Acc	523.80	551.40	+10.40	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	488.20	513.80	+0.20	...
UK Equity	610.90	642.90	+17.30	...
Gilt Edged	801.50	843.60	-1.00	...
Interest Fund	459.10	483.10	+0.40	...
Managed Fd	686.80	722.90	+10.80	...
Intl Equity	770.60	811.10	+9.90	...
North American	350.90	369.30	+1.60	...
Far East	366.40	385.60	+5.40	...
Intl Currency	278.50	293.10	-0.70	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	712.80	750.10	-11.10	...
UK Equity	1090.60	1148.00	-31.80	...
Overseas Equity	584.80	615.50	-10.50	...
American	655.90	690.40	+3.20	...
Far East	446.90	470.40	+7.80	...
Property	247.60	260.60	-1.00	...
Fixed Interest	509.60	536.90	+0.90	...
Indexed Gilt	291.30	306.60	+2.10	...
Deposit	249.20	262.30	-0.70	...
NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD PO Box 888, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ 0117 940 4040				
Growth Mngd Pens	199.50	210.10	+4.10	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NU&M Funds PO Box 68, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	2244.00	2362.10	+49.30	...
Equity Fund	5449.60	5736.40	+162.40	...
Property Fd	766.60	806.90	+3.10	...
Fixed Int Fd	790.00	831.60	+0.40	...
Deposit Fund	405.30	426.60	+0.40	...
Intl Fund	346.20	364.40	+5.50	...
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	477.70	504.00	+15.10	...
Fxd Interest Acc	315.90	333.30	+0.60	...
International Acc	338.40	357.00	+4.80	...
Managed Acc	315.00	332.30	+6.20	...
Property Acc	229.00	241.60	+0.30	...
Money Acc	175.10	184.80	+0.20	...
Spec Mkt Acc	260.30	274.60	+4.70	...
Japan Equity Acc	76.80	81.10	-2.20	...
N Amer Acc	285.60	301.30	+7.00	...
Pacific Acc	102.80	108.50	-0.20	...
European Acc	327.40	345.40	+3.60	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	146.80	154.60	+0.20	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	379.40	399.40	+0.40	...
Inv Equity	2163.50	2277.40	+80.20	...
Inv Managed	1332.20	1402.40	+33.20	...
Ret Managed	1567.60	1650.20	+38.70	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 01180 528334				
Managed	518.00	539.60	+2.40	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0121 548 3228				
Managed Fund	1181.80	1244.10	+21.20	...
Equity Fund	2760.10	2911.70	+87.00	...
Intl Fund	837.00	881.10	+9.10	...
Fixed Interest	716.70	754.50	+1.10	...
Property Fund	556.80	586.20	-0.30	...
Cash Fund	416.40	438.40	+0.40	...
Pacific Basin	273.80	288.30	...	...
N American Fd	515.50	542.70	-9.20	...
Euro Fund	513.60	540.70	+6.10	...
Balanced Fund	233.50	245.80	+4.30	...
Strategic Fund	267.50	281.60	+6.30	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) 1	1095.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc	533.20	561.30	...	...
Op Prop	568.00	597.90	+4.60	...
Op Equity	1648.00	1732.20	+45.00	...
Op High Yield	771.50	811.50	-0.70	...
Op Managed	1184.10	1246.40	+20.80	...
Op Deposit	447.90	471.50	+1.20	...
Japan Smlr	115.70	121.80	-5.60	...
Managed Gth	394.00	414.70	+4.20	...
British	596.10	627.50	+5.42	...
Global Bond	121.80	128.20	-1.90	...
Gold Share	60.50	63.70	-1.30	...
Japan	261.90	275.70	-11.30	...
UK Smlr Cos	692.60	728.10	-17.30	...
Mngd Growth	664.80	699.80	+3.90	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	572.90	603.00	+9.80	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	108.00	114.30	+1.40	2.10
Deposit Fund (2)	435.60	460.50	+0.40	7.10
Gilt Fund	677.50	715.70	+0.80	7.53
Global Equity Fd	209.80	217.20	+3.00	...
Property Fund (4)	138.50	146.60	+1.30	6.69
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	981.20	1032.80	+26.70	...
Fixed Interest	465.90	490.50	+1.50	...
Index-Linked	240.60	253.30	+1.20	...
International	557.20	586.60	+5.00	...
Property	357.50	376.20	-2.50	...
Cash	263.20	277.00	+0.20	...
Managed	663.70	698.70	-12.20	...
Cap Gteed Bd	206.00	216.80	+5.90	...
95% Safeguard	115.20	...	+0.10	...
100% Safeguard	105.20	...	+0.15	...
Wealth Pres Cap	120.30	...	+1.60	...
Wealth Pres Inc	54.40	...	+19.10	...
Buzzbond 1	113.80	...	+3.10	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	207.96	218.92	+0.21	...
Index-Linked	206.70	217.60	+1.20	...
Fixed Interest	236.90	249.40	+0.20	...
Mixed	391.30	412.00	+9.60	...
UK Equity	402.40	423.60	+11.20	...
International	360.80	379.90	+5.90	...
American	507.20	533.90	-7.60	...
Japan	175.10	184.30	-3.50	...
European	472.00	497.50	+8.80	...
Pacific	293.10	308.50	+3.50	...
Technology	654.70	689.20	-13.00	...
Fgn Bd/Crcy	247.20	260.30	-0.20	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	267.90	281.70	+0.60	...
UK Equity	636.40	670.00	-19.50	...
American	437.30	462.50	+5.40	...
Pacific	286.30	301.50	-0.40	...
European	762.40	802.60	+9.90	...
Global Mgd	385.80	406.20	+3.50	...
Fixed Interest	311.00	328.40	+2.00	...
Index Linked	248.90	262.10	+1.40	...
Deposit	223.60	235.60	+0.30	...
Managed	426.70	449.20	+8.30	...
Worldwide	141.90	149.40	+2.00	...
Pen Worldwide	154.00	162.20	+2.80	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2582.40	2662.30	+95.00	...
Safety Fund	317.80	334.50	+1.70	...
Growth Fund	353.10	371.70	+7.30	...
Opportunity Fd	363.40	382.60	+8.90	...
Cash Fund	198.60	209.10	+0.10	...
European Fund	596.30	627.70	+7.40	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	271.60	285.90	+0.80	...
Index-Linked Fd	227.40	239.40	+0.10	...
International Fd	361.00	380.10	+2.30	...
North American	447.60	471.20	+3.80	...
Property Fund	139.30	146.70	-0.20	...
UK Equity	429.50	452.20	+13.40	...
UK Smaller	347.10	365.40	+2.50	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	407.50	428.10	+8.30	...
Equity	483.70	509.20	+13.80	...
International	359.40	378.50	+4.20	...
Property	271.50	285.90	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	325.20	342.40	+1.50	...
Index Linked	229.50	241.70	+0.70	...
Cash	211.00	222.20	+0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1207.90	1285.00	+25.60	...
Cash Fund	385.10	405.50	+0.20	...
Property Fund	351.60	370.60	+0.10	...
Equity Fund	1212.60	1290.10	+18.10	...
Fxd Interest Fund	639.30	673.70	+2.20	...
International	508.40	540.90	+5.30	...
High Income	1229.20	1307.70	+35.40	...
Far East	463.30	492.90	+6.60	...
North American	980.50	1043.10	+14.10	...
Special Sits	1099.50	1169.70	-31.50	...
Technology	1194.40	1270.70	-27.60	...
Extra Income Fd	661.30	703.30	+18.20	...
Gilt Fund	565.00	599.00	+0.10	...
European	253.40	269.60	-4.30	...
Adventurous Mg	290.90	306.60	-6.00	...
Secure Mgd	209.10	220.40	+2.10	...
Equity Inc Dist	172.70	182.00	+3.90	4.10
Managed Dist	142.30	150.00	+2.00	4.67
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	509.30	541.90	+13.10	...
North America	600.00	638.30	+3.50	...
Far East Fund	453.40	482.40	+3.90	...
Global Managed	856.90	898.90	+13.70	...
Deposit Fund	259.60	273.30	...	...
Prime Residential	149.50	157.40	+0.10	...
European Fund	453.00	482.00	+8.80	...
Fixed Interest	64.10	68.20	-0.10	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1570.50	1570.50	+23.20	3.36
Inv Pol 2	1415.70	1490.20	+22.50	...
Inv Pol 3	1330.90	1401.30	+21.20	...
Inv Cash	362.00	381.10	+0.30	...
Mixed Fund	668.30	704.50	+11.50	...
Equity Fund	905.50	953.30	+23.30	...
Property Fund	310.40	326.80	-0.30	...
International Fd	612.80	645.10	+4.50	...
Fixed Interest Fd	493.70	519.80	+1.50	...
Indexed Stock Fd	250.10	263.40	+1.60	...
Cash Fund	263.00	277.00	+0.30	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	581.30	611.80	+8.60	...
Equity Acc	805.60	847.90	+16.50	...
International Acc	418.10	440.10	+9.30	...
Property	265.10	279.00	+1.60	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552				
Cash	307.80	324.00	+0.40	...
Equity	1809.10	1904.40	-58.50	...
European	252.00	265.30	+3.80	...
Far East	143.90	151.50	-0.50	...
Fixed Interest	521.40	548.90	+1.50	...
Index Linked	266.10	280.20	+1.30	...
International	747.10	786.50	+9.20	...
Managed	1062.30	1118.30	+23.30	...
Nth American	252.40	265.70	+3.70	...
Property	437.20	460.30	+1.10	...
Pensions				
Cash	500.40	526.80	+0.20	...
Equity	2902.70	3055.50	+112.50	...
European	390.00	398.50	+6.20	...
Far East	108.70	114.50	-0.80	...
Fixed Interest	769.50	810.00	+2.10	...
Index Linked	386.80	407.20	+2.50	...
International	1135.00	1194.80	+15.00	...
Managed	1634.00	1721.00	+42.00	...
Nth American	360.60	379.60	+8.60	...
Property	669.40	704.70	-0.60	...
Stock Exchange	365.30	384.50	+10.30	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	1105.00	1163.20	+23.80	...
Equity Fund	1629.60	1711.40	+50.30	...
Fixed Interest Fd	538.20	566.50	...	...
Index-Linked Fd	409.80	431.40	+1.30	...
Property Fund	593.20	624.40	-0.80	...
International Fd	996.00	1048.40	+14.50	...
N American Fd	526.80	554.50	+3.60	...
Far East Fund	207.00	217.90	+1.40	...
Deposit Fund	346.50	364.70	+0.30	...
Intnl Bd 1	1,135.00	...	-60.60	...
Worldwide Bond	169.70	178.60	-0.30	...
European	323.00	340.00	+4.80	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	1121.00	1180.00	+24.30	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	695.00	732.60	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund 1	698.40	...	+0.90	...
-do- Acc 1	643.70	...	+0.80	...
Agricultural Fd 1	957.40	...	+1.00	...
-do- Acc 1	905.30	...	+0.90	...
Abbey Nat Fd 1	313.60	...	+0.70	...
Abbey Nat Acc 1	536.70	...	+0.70	...
Investment Fd 1	395.60	...	+12.20	...
Investment (A) 1	568.80	...	-11.60	...
Equity 1	2404.00	...	-70.80	...
Equity Acc 1	2283.90	...	+67.30	...
Money Fund 1	561.00	...	+0.50	...
-do- Acc 1	532.20	...	+0.40	...
Actuarial Fd 1	982.20	...	-22.00	...
Gilt-Edged Fd 1	507.40	...	...	...
-do- Acc 1	507.40	...	...	...
Retire Annuity 1	1514.00	...	+2.00	...
Immed Annuity 1	301.00	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life 1	261.20	...	+0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc 1	2485.80	...	+40.90	...
Managed Acc 1	1275.00	...	+17.30	...
Equity Account 1	2070.30	...	+33.50	...
Mngd Fund Acc	576.80	607.10	+8.70	...
Equity Fund Acc	888.50	935.30	-15.00	...
Prop Fund Acc	332.40	350.00	+0.40	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	420.30	442.50	+3.60	...
Money Fund Acc	252.30	265.60	+0.20	...
Index-Lnk Sec Ac	254.10	267.50	+1.80	...
Pers Pens Acct 1	2965.80	...	+7.00	...
Pens Mngd Acct	1378.20	1450.70	+3.40	...
Pens Guarantee	329.20	346.50	+0.60	...
Pens Equity	540.40	634.70	+0.30	...
Pens Property	385.20	405.40	+0.70	...
Pens Fixed Int	422.10	444.30	+1.80	...
Pens Intl	329.50	346.90	+1.80	...
Pens Money	282.10	296.90	+0.30	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	255.20	268.60	+2.10	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1322.00	1391.60	+39.20	...
Property Acc	486.60	512.20	+1.30	...
Equity Acc	2502.00	2632.70	+77.80	...
Fixed Int Acc	536.90	565.20	+0.30	...
Cash Acc	357.10	375.90	+0.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	688.70	725.00	+9.20	...
Japan Acc	190.00	200.00	-4.60	...
Pacific Acc	298.30	314.10	+6.70	...
Far Eastern Acc	634.00	667.40	+2.40	...
International Acc	738.50	777.40	+9.90	...
Distribution Fund	475.40	[illegible]	+9.30	4.87
European	317.80	334.60	+3.60	...
Deltra Dist	255.20	268.70	+5.00	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants, SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	423.50	445.90	+7.70	...
Property Fund	253.70	267.20	+0.90	...
Fixed Interest Fd	285.90	301.00	+0.50	...
Money Fund	230.30	242.60	+0.30	...
Equity Fund	580.40	611.10	+11.60	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	1061.60	1117.40	-26.80	...
Money Fund	364.50	383.60	-0.70	...
Equity Fund	1054.70	1110.20	+35.00	...
Fixed Interest	363.20	382.30	-1.20	...
Property Fund	458.90	483.00	+4.80	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	877.30	923.30	+14.10	...
Income	1217.40	1281.00	-41.10	...
International Gth	841.80	886.10	-18.00	...
Capital Fund	915.50	963.60	+30.90	...
Recovery Fund	618.50	651.00	-16.40	...
Japan & General	170.10	180.50	-3.10	...
Formerly Allnet				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	30.75	32.84	+0.04	...
Bear	30.21	31.80	+0.58	...
Owl	33.94	35.72	+1.03	...
Bull	27.13	28.55	+0.73	...
Stag	26.03	27.39	+0.59	...
Gilt Edged	23.95	25.21	-0.08	...
Deposit	17.87	18.81	+0.03	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	29.40	31.01	+0.07	...
Bear	45.88	48.29	+0.09	...
Owl	50.93	53.61	+1.86	...
Bull	38.23	40.24	+1.27	...
Stag	36.28	38.18	+0.09	...
Gilt Edged	32.44	34.14	-0.15	...
Deposit	24.14	25.41	+0.04	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund 1	...	700.45	+23.31	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	585.69	616.51	-19.77	...
N Amer Equity	468.70	493.36	+7.50	...
Far East Equity	310.42	326.75	+5.61	...
Fixed	383.61	403.80	+1.31	...
Cash Deposit	235.28	247.66	+0.45	...
Property	195.52	205.81	+2.07	...
Special Opp	505.17	531.75	+11.49	...
Managed	472.50	497.15	+12.85	...
Index-Linked Fd	232.40	244.63	-1.29	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	882.10	928.50	+24.00	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	479.90	505.10	-1.70	...
Life Equity Acc	1391.80	1465.00	-47.00	...
Life Money Acc	342.50	360.50	+0.70	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	1160.60	1221.60	-31.50	...
Life Intl Acc	594.90	626.20	+12.80	...
Life High Inc Acc	1399.00	1472.60	+56.00	...
Life Property Acc	307.50	323.60	+3.20	...

Relief over Isa rethink

Long-term savers will climb aboard this open-topped vehicle, says Anne Ashworth

The individual savings account (Isa) rules have been thoroughly revised after the outcry from the public and the industry that greeted the original proposals last December.

Few other issues have raised so much emotion among investors of all ages who saw their long-term savings plans threatened by the proposed ceiling of £50,000 on the amount that could be transferred from Peps and Tessas into Isas. The Government has now relented, permitting unlimited amounts accumulated in Peps and Tessas to be safeguarded from tax after the Isa's launch next year.

ISA FACTFILE

■ Isas will make their debut in April 1999. The Chancellor said that they would be guaranteed to run for at least ten years. There will be a review of this rule after seven years.

■ Peps and Tessas will remain on sale until April 1999. All Peps held at that date can continue to be held as Peps outside the new account, enjoying the same tax advantages (see below). But no more cash may be invested. Savers with Tessas may continue to contribute to their new accounts until the end of the five-year term. At this time, they can transfer the capital into an Isa, but not the accumulated interest. In the year that the transfer is made, they may make the full contribution to an Isa.

■ The Isa will have an annual subscription limit of £5,000 of which no more than £1,000 can go into cash and £2,000 into life insurance. However, in the first year (1999-2000) £3,000 may be invested in cash and £1,000 in life insurance. These limits mean that the Isa will still be less generous than its predecessor savings schemes. Those who use all their allowances can invest £9,000 a year in Peps (£6,000 in a general Pep, plus £3,000 in a single company Pep) and another £9,000 over five years in a Tessa.

■ The rules that restrict the scope of investments in Peps may disappear. Pep investors may only invest £1,500 of their annual allowance in non-UK or EU shares. Jupiter is one of the fund managers pressing for clarification of this point.

■ As exclusively revealed last week in *The Times*, there will be two different species of Isa, a significant change to the earlier proposals. You can go to a single manager, where you may invest your full allowance. This manager must offer the stocks and shares component of the Isa package. Or you may go to separate managers, one for each component. This will enable the supermarket banks to offer "mini" cash-only Isas.

■ Isa savers will receive their income tax-free and will escape capital gains tax on any rises in the value of their holdings. They will receive a 10 per cent tax credit on dividends from UK shares for the first five years. They can withdraw their cash at any time without penalty, but once they have subscribed the full amount, they cannot contribute any extra cash. However, Isa investors should read the small print before investing, as the Inland Revenue will permit Isa managers to offer schemes with lock-in periods, which require notice of withdrawal, "in exchange for higher returns for savers".

■ The Chancellor gave warning that he would not tolerate hidden catches and charges on Isas and may seek a benchmark for product costs.



BUDGET CASEFILE: STOWE

On Tuesday Belinda Webster was one of many retired middle Britons sharing a great sense of relief. In an attempt to supplement her state and small occupational pension Mrs Webster put as much as she could afford into Pep investments from when they were introduced.

The reward for her prudence is that her Pep holdings now exceed £50,000, the initial proposed Isa ceiling. Having taken advantage of the tax-free investment in good faith, she was extremely disappointed to find that the Government had been considering measures which would, in effect, retrospectively tax her existing savings.

Mrs Webster was hoping that Gordon Brown's ruling this week would allow investors to transfer any amount into an Isa and make additional contributions much in the same way they were able to with Peps.

She wanted the Government to show some commitment to long-termism by supporting those who, like herself, have had the foresight to provide for themselves in their retirement.

The leaks that had alluded to concessions were confirmed in the Chancellor's speech. The Government has granted a reprieve, saying that all Peps held at April 5, 1999, can continue to be held as Peps outside the new savings account, but with the same tax advantages as the new account.

Moreover, Mrs Webster will be permitted a choice of manager, one for each component of the Isa scheme (cash, stocks and shares, life insurance) should she wish.

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Newton Income	1	2	1
Newton International Growth	1	1	2
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هكذا من الأصل

Tax gains are capital

Marianne Curphey answers your questions on the changes to CGT

The Chancellor has made radical changes to capital gains tax in order to reward long-term investment and small business owners and to control short-term speculators.

However, despite his declared intention to simplify taxation, some of the reforms Gordon Brown introduced are just as complicated as the old rules — and there is a sting in the tail because he has effectively scrapped a legal loophole used to minimise the capital gains tax (CGT) known as "bed and breakfasting".

Q How does capital gains tax work?

A When investors sell shares which have risen in value they may have to pay CGT on the difference between the price they paid and the price realised, known as a capital gain.

Investors can make gains of up to £6,500 annually before they are then taxed at any gains above this level at their highest rate of tax.

They are also allowed to carry forward losses from previous years to offset large gains in the future, provided they actually sell the shares and notify the Inland Revenue. Once the shares have been sold, the loss is fixed and is not indexed.

The £6,500 threshold is to be increased to £6,800 for the tax year 1998-99, but indexation is to be frozen after April 5. This had been a way of shielding inflationary gains from CGT.

Q What are the new capital gains tax rules?

A Instead of indexation, investors will be entitled to a tapering exemption from CGT depending on how long they hold their investments from April 5, 1998. This new development fits in with the Chancellor's avowed intent to reward long-term investment in UK shares and to close tax loopholes for short-term speculators. The longer investors hold shares, the lower the CGT bill will be.

If they hold shares for ten years, they will pay tax on only 60 per cent of any gain they have made. However, if, for example they hold shares for just two years, they pay tax on the whole of the gain.

This means the rate falls from the top level of 40 per cent on shares sold before three years to the lowest rate of 24 per cent on assets held for a decade.

For small business owners the tapering relief is more generous — if they invest for ten years they pay a minimum rate of 10 per cent.

Q What effect does the tax have on my investments?

A If an investor bought shares worth £100,000 and sold them for £250,000, the gain would be £150,000. Under the old rules and assuming inflation stood at 3 per cent for ten years, the gain would be reduced by £34,000 owinge to the old system of indexation. The net gain over the period would be £116,000. In total, the tax paid would be £46,000 if the investor was a higher-rate taxpayer.

Under the new rules, if he held the same investment for ten years, tax would be payable on 60 per cent of the gain. So the same investor would have a net gain of £90,000 and the tax payable would be £36,000. He would be better off under the new rules.

However, according to Charles Levett-Scrivener, of the financial advisers Towry Law, if he held the stock for between three and four years he would be worse off because he would have to pay tax on up to 95 per cent of the gain. A 40 per cent taxpayer's bill would be as much as £57,000.

Q Are there any drawbacks to the new system?

A Mr Brown has given an incentive to investors with one hand, but is taking away some of the existing benefits with the other, says Mr Levett-Scrivener.

Bed and breakfasting was a popular and legal method of tax planning which allowed investors to realise their gains each year and make full use of their £6,500 exemption from CGT. Investors sold the shares one day and bought them back the next. B&B was also used to crystallise a loss in order to offset it against a gain elsewhere in a portfolio.

Under the new system, any shares sold and repurchased within 30 days will be counted as void and the old purchase price, rather than the new one, will be the base from which the gain is assessed. Waiting 30 days to repurchase shares exposes investors to the possibility of the market rising strongly, making it more expensive to buy the stock back.

This reform has serious implications for holders of building society windfalls whose shares were deemed to be of nil value by the Inland Revenue. Many are now sitting on gains well in excess of the CGT exemption.

Q Are there any changes in the way losses are assessed?

A There is another sting in the tail under the new rules, Mr Levett-Scrivener says. Currently, if you made losses on investments in previous years and wanted to offset them against current gains, you could register them with the Inland Revenue within five years and ten months of crystallising them and carry them forward indefinitely. This does not apply to loses which arose before the introduction of self-assessment. You must keep a detailed record of these losses as they can only be claimed when there is a gain to be offset.

Under the new system which will come into place in April, you have to use up carried-forward losses before you can apply the £6,500 annual exemption. In practice this makes tax planning more difficult and less efficient.

Mr Levett-Scrivener said: "There is no way around the problem. The new system means people will use up their losses very quickly without being able to make the most of their annual exemption."

He cites an investor who has brought forward losses of £25,000. If he has made a gain of £15,000 and has crystalised losses of £5,000, his net capital gain would be £10,000. To be tax efficient, he would have deducted the annual exemption of £6,500, leaving a chargeable profit of £3,500. To pay no CGT, he would need to use £3,500 of his carried-forward losses, leaving a net balance of £21,500 of losses.

Under the new rules, he must use up the carried-forward losses first — in this case £10,000 and his tapering relief and his annual exemption are wasted. He is only able to carry forward losses next year of £15,000 (down from £21,500).

Elspeth May, a tax partner with the accountants KPMG, says assets held before the Budget are deemed to have been held for one year, irrespective of how long you have held them, so it will take ten years to build up the full tapering relief.

She believes it will still be possible to "Bed & Pep" shares. Investors will be able to sell shares, realise a gain, and buy them back immediately within a personal equity plan, because it will be classed as a separate holding.



The Bowes family in Greenwich, South London have had no hesitation in giving the Chancellor the thumbs-up on his first real Budget.

Jonathan Bowes, 32, a financial adviser, said: "I was really pleased. All our fears over tax-free savings were dissipated. I am glad they listened to reason and decided not to penalise savers with the individual savings accounts."

Mr Bowes's other main fear — that Labour would abolish higher rate tax relief on pensions contributions — also failed to materialise.

Having recently become parents with the birth of their first child, Imogen, Jonathan and his wife Fiona were naturally interested in what the Chancellor had to say about childcare. They welcomed the £2.50 increase on child benefit but reckon Mr Brown took it away again by cutting the married couple's allowance. They were more impressed by the Government's promise to introduce a tax credit for lower income earners paying for childcare.

Although the Boweses do not stand to benefit from the move they welcome the effect it should have.

Mr Bowes said: "This should help people pay a bit more and get better care for their children when they are at work. Raising standards in this area is essential, although the tax credit doesn't actually ensure that childcare centres are inspected properly."

The Boweses' one area of disappointment was the environment. They wanted to see the Government discourage the use of cars in cities and invest more in public transport. "I don't think they went far enough. The Government should have put more on the price of petrol but it was afraid of upsetting Middle England."

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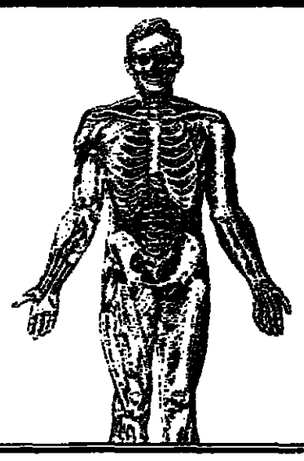
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IPVT702

BUDGET CASE HISTORY



As part of the Chancellor's package of measures intended to help the nation back to work, people with disabilities and long-term illnesses will be given a tax credit in an attempt to encourage them into jobs. Other work incentives for the disabled will include personal employment advisers. The current disability working allowance (DWA) will be replaced by disabled person's tax credit (DPTC) from October 1999, which should ensure they pay less tax.

But Henry Stone, a 24-year-old, disabled and unemployed, remains unimpressed. He said: "It seems good news but might just be window-dressing. From previous experience, the details of these schemes are not as beneficial as they appear. I feel they are giving with one hand but taking away with the other. As for the proposed personal adviser service, simply having someone to talk to about your future plans achieves something, but is not real assistance. Training may appear to be of great use, but there is a danger with disabled people that you can get into a cycle of training.

Mr Stone is more impressed with another measure allowing claimants of long term incapacity benefits who lose a job within one year to return to benefit.

He said: "The financial safety net for those taking out a job is an excellent idea because it can be a high-risk decision to commence employment. This means you will not pay for falling at the first hurdle. The relaxation of the limit on voluntary work can only be a good thing. I do voluntary work at the Disability Information and Support Centre in Portsmouth."

LIZANNE ROSE

Race against time to avoid taxman's grasp

New rules set deadline for Pep investors and retiring entrepreneurs, says Gavin Lumsden

The clock is ticking for investors who want to hide as much money as possible from the taxman after this week's Budget. A change of heart by the Chancellor means that holders of Peps and Tessas will not be penalised when *Individual Savings Accounts (Isas)* are introduced in April 1999.

Under the Government's original proposals, savings in Peps and Tessas would have counted towards a £50,000 ceiling on lifetime contributions into Isas. Now, Gordon Brown has announced that Peps and Tessas will be ringfenced, allowing more than 300,000 prudent savers to get the most out of the new savings vehicles.

This means that you can still take out two general Peps, two single company Peps and one Tessa before Isas are launched, sheltering up to £27,000 in the process. However, you must hurry. You have until April 6 to take out Peps for the 1997-98 tax year.

Quick action may be essential if you are a beneficiary of a trust set up by someone who has died recently. Under the "dead settlor" rule, beneficiaries have been able to encash investments held on their behalf in trust and escape tax in the year after the settlor's death. This loophole will cease to exist on April 6.

Entrepreneurs who have sold, or who plan to sell, their businesses also need to be quick on their feet. As part of his reform of capital gains tax (CGT), Mr Brown has radically altered the reliefs available on such gains.

The first of these is reinvestment relief. Until now, entrepreneurs have been able to sell a business and reinvest the proceeds into a privately-owned company, so sheltering £100,000 from 20 per cent income tax and deferring 40 per cent CGT while retaining full control of the assets.

From April 6, full reinvestment relief will be available only via Enterprise Investment Schemes, pooled funds investing in small, start-up companies. From April 6, the amount that can be sheltered in an EIS will be raised to £150,000, but they will be barred from investing in property or farming businesses. In addition, individuals are not allowed to own more than 30 per cent of shares in an EIS. If these restrictions put you off, you need to act fast before the rules change.

The second element to go is retirement relief. Under existing rules entrepreneurs over 50, or retiring earlier from ill health, escape CGT on the first £250,000 of gains from selling their business and pay only half the tax on the next £750,000. Since Mr Brown is proposing to benefit entrepreneurs with an ultra-low 10 per cent rate of CGT on sales of business assets held for more than ten years, he has decided to phase out this generous relief between April 1999 and April 2003. So, if you are planning to sell a £1 million business it could be wise to act this year to secure the relief.

However, if you aim to retire between 2003 and 2008, take care. Retirement relief will have disappeared, but the benefit of the new tapered CGT will have barely kicked in. So you could pay thousands of pounds more in tax than you expected. Charles Levett-Scrivener, of Towry Law, the independent financial adviser suggests people take out a critical illness policy to cover this period so that if they fall ill they are not forced to sell their business at a bad time.

Mr Brown also attacked tax avoidance. Labour has long disliked offshore tax havens. This dislike has been strengthened by the embarrassing revelation that Geoffrey Robinson, the millionaire Paymaster General, is a beneficiary of a trust in Guernsey. Most UK residents have been barred from taking a tax-free benefit from offshore trusts since 1981. Until the Budget on Tuesday, Mr Robinson was an exception because the trust from which he benefits was set up by a Belgian friend and was outside UK tax law. Not any more. Determined to counter any allegation of hypocrisy, Mr Brown has extended his tax net to offshore trusts which have been set up by foreigners.

In another foray, Mr Brown has penalised businessmen using offshore insurance policies to shelter shares in privately-owned companies. From April 1999 higher rate holders of "highly-personalised" portfolio bonds will incur an extra 15 per cent charge on top of the 17 per cent tax they pay on encashment.

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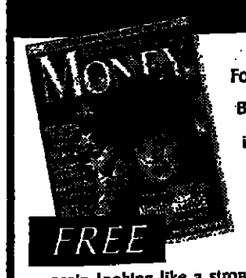
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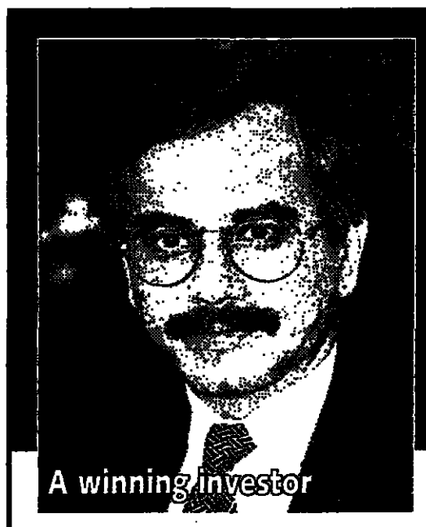
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Graham Searjeant assesses the Budget's impact

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All go for Peps and Tessas

Investors seeking safe tax-saving schemes were let off the hook in the Budget, says **Clare Stewart**

MICHEL EULER



Peppers are happy, but the Budget ignored marriage, so there'll be few takers for Yohji Yamamoto's bridal gown

"The chequered flag is up, says Jason Hollands, the financial adviser at BESt Investment, as investors pile into Peps and Tessas before the end of the current tax year.

The Chancellor's decision to leave Peps and Tessas alone has cleared the way for people wanting to make the most of the tax-free benefits on offer, but who, before the Budget, were put off by worries that their accumulated investments might have been taxed.

The Budget statement on the new Individual Savings Accounts (Isas) spelt out that while no new money could be put in Peps after April 1999, all existing Peps could continue to be held and keep their existing tax advantages, without any ceiling on the amount held tax free.

The Isa comes in from April 1999, so investors can still make the most of two tax years' worth of concessions. For those who have held back from putting money into Peps this year, and who expect to have some spare cash next year, £18,000 can be sheltered in Peps.

Incentives such as discounted charges and reduced fees are on offer to tempt investors, whether buying direct from a Pep provider, adviser or from a Pep discounter. But investors must avoid being swept up in the hype and special offers. "The danger is that people may make rushed investment decisions," said Mr Hollands. Instead investors should look just as carefully at their needs, assess their priorities whether growth or income, and consider what risk they can accept.

Monday sees the launch of a new service by Allen Direct, the Pep discount arm of Allenbridge. Together with a range of discounts, investors using the service will receive a free Peps monitoring service of an annual performance analysis and a Red Alert service which monitors a fund's performance monthly and informs investors of unusual changes.

Allen Direct claims to be stealing a march on other Pep discounters whose role is usually to provide a good deal direct, but without any further customer support or advice. Mr Hollands, at BESt Investment, says investors, whether first time or experienced Peppers, should "build up a portfolio of funds in a spread of markets including UK, Europe and further afield".

Given the strong performance in the UK, fund managers are increasingly looking for potential in European markets which are behind the UK in their economic cycles. For investors seeking a broader Pep exposure including Europe, BESt Investment has Gartmore's Global Pep among others on its recommended list while Ian Millward, at Chase de Vere, is keen on Fidelity's International Triple Performance Pep. This spans investments in the UK, Europe and a choice of the US or the Far East. It also offers an opportunity to phase an investment, that is to pay in the maximum allowed which is invested throughout the year so spreading the risk.

Tracker funds that follow the FTSE 100 have delivered handsomely in the market's bull run. But while trackers offer a good way in for novices, first-time buyers should think carefully before buying. The key shares followed by trackers such as the banks and big pharmaceutical groups, are seen as fully-valued and buying at the top of the market offers less attractive returns in future. "We favour getting away from the FTSE, and like Gartmore Capital Growth which includes smaller companies," said Mark Dear at Holden Meehan, the independent financial adviser.

For European exposure, he suggest Perpetual's Pep as well as Gartmore's European Selected Opportunities. "I like to steer clear of the strong performers of the past 12 months and try to pick those where there is a reason to buy now, such as Schroder, Fidelity and Jupiter."

For unit-trust based Peps, Holden Meehan also likes the recently launched Standard Life Ethical fund which is UK based and has low charges with 2 per cent initially and an annual charge of 0.95 per cent.

Savers may want to make the most of Tessas before Isas 'arrive. Tessas taken out by April 5, 1999, will run for their full five years so savers can put in the full £9,000 over the five years. Once a Tessa reaches maturity, the capital (but not the interest) up to a maximum of £9,000 can be transferred to an Isa. Current best buys for first Tessas, says Moneyfacts, the financial statistics group, have a top rate of 8 per cent. This is available at Britannia Building Society though the maximum annual investment is required. Eight per cent is also on offer at the Norwich & Peterborough and Bradford & Bingley. For follow-on Tessas, Bradford & Bingley is top with 8.05 per cent and a £3,001 minimum deposit. Sun Banking Corporation also offers 8.05 per cent but wants £9,000 deposit.

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Low-paid see the benefit

Caroline Merrell says marriage went unrewarded in the Budget

The institution of marriage came under attack in the Budget, as Gordon Brown unveiled a package of measures to help families and those on low levels of pay.

His package radically altered the structure of national insurance, introduced tax credits for the poor, but did not bring in the 10 per cent tax band.

The £2.50 a week rise in child benefit, to take effect in April, is to some degree funded by a cut in the married couple's allowance (MCA) from next year. In 1999, the MCA will be worth only about £190 a year, down from £274 now, saving the Government £720 million.

Some of the biggest changes are to employers' and employees' national insurance payments, as Mr Brown brought in proposals by Martin Taylor, the banker heading Welfare to Work.

This was a first step towards more integration of national insurance and tax. NI changes will cost the Treasury £1.4 billion a year, and employers will stop paying NI for a million employees. The four rates of employer NI contributions will be replaced by a rate of 12.2 per cent, cutting employer contributions by £1.92 a week.

Mr Brown said: "We are cutting the costs to business of employing 13 million of our lower-paid employees." There were no changes to NI contributions for the self-employed, though he indicated similar modifications are likely at some stage. Employee contributions also change. Under the old system, those under the lower earnings limit, £64 for 1998-99, paid no NI. But anyone earning above that sum had to pay 2 per cent on the first £62, which is £1.28 a week, or £66 a year. The changes mean the 2 per cent entry fee will be abolished. So the situation in which someone can face a drop in net pay because of an extra 1p in earnings will no longer arise.

The married couple's allowance has been under attack in the past few years. From 1991 to 1995, it was frozen at £1,720. The rate at which the relief could be claimed was in 1994 cut to 20 per cent, and to 15 per cent the year after.

In spite of the Government's stated aim of cutting the MCA to 10 per cent next year, the level at which it is assessed has risen to £1,900.

As is usual, the Chancellor raised personal allowances by the rate of inflation. So the level at which anyone starts to pay income tax rises by £150 to £4,195. The extra personal allowance of 15 per cent of £1,900 has also been extended to cover women with children and incapacitated husbands.

The 20 per cent tax band has been widened by £200 to £4,300. The Treasury says that 7.5 million people now pay tax only at the lower rate. The basic rate limit is rising by £1,000. So only those earning more than £31,295 will pay the highest tax rate, of 40 per cent.

The Government is taking its first big step in integrating the tax and welfare systems by introducing the working family tax credit (WFTC) in October 1999.

The WFTC, to replace family credit, will mean that those on low pay receive benefits in their pay packet as reduced tax. Mr Brown claimed that the integration means that no family in which one parent works will receive less than £180 a week, or £9,360 a year.

The Government also guaranteed that the same family would not pay tax on earnings of under £220 a week, or £11,440 a year. To qualify for the tax credit, families must have children and one parent must work for at least 16 hours a week.

The basic credit will be worth £48.80 a week. Each child will generate credit worth between £14.85 and £25.40, according to age. There will be an extra £10.80 credit for people working more than 30 hours a week. WFTC takes effect if a family's income is worth less than £90 a week, in comparison to Family Credit which is for those earning under £79 per week. Under the old Family Credit rules, benefit of 70p would be withdrawn for every £1 earned over the limit. WFTC will reduce the benefit by 55p for every £1 earned. WFTC takes into account childcare costs up to £150.

Inland Revenue

TAX ALLOWANCES

Personal		1998/99	1997/98
basic		£4,195	£4,045
age related (see note 1)	65 to 74	£5,410	£5,220
	75 and over	£5,600	£5,400
Married couple's (see note 2)			
basic		£1,900	£1,830
age related (see note 1)	65 to 74	£2,506	£2,185
	75 and over	£2,548	£2,285
Additional allowance for one parent families (see note 2)		£1,900	£1,830
Widow's bereavement allowance (see note 2)		£1,900	£1,830
Blind person (available to each qualifying spouse)		£1,380	£1,280

Notes

INCOME TAX RATES

	1998/99			1997/98		
	Rate	Band	Total tax	Rate	Band	Total tax
Lower rate band	20%	£1-4,300	£860	20%	£1-4,100	£820
Basic rate band	23%	£4,301-27,101	£4,104	23%	£4,101-26,100	£5,980
Higher rate band	40%	£27,101+		40%	£26,101+	

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

Rate		
Exemption limit:	1998/99	1997/98
Individuals	£6,800	£6,500
Trusts (minimum)	£3,400	£3,250

Gains arising after 6 April 1998 will be subject to a tapering relief

INHERITANCE TAX

	Death after 5/4/98		Death between 9/6/97 and 5/4/98	
	Rate	Band	Rate	Band
	0%	£0-223,000	0%	£0-215,000
	40%	£223,001+	40%	£215,001+

Estates on chargeable lifetime transfers over 80% of threshold liable, subject to tapering relief

PENSIONS

	1998/99	1997/98
General earnings cap	£87,600	£84,000

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WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

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Alan Sillitoe puffs smoke at killjoys

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The terror of Thailand from behind the wheel

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THE TIMES
WEEKEND

SATURDAY MARCH 21 1998

Hollywood is lining up to buy British talent. **Giles Whittell** meets our homegrown movie moguls

MARK TILLIE



Helena Bonham Carter in *Wings of the Dove*. The aristocratic British actress is heir to a tradition, founded by Charlie Chaplin, that delivers a new crop of world-beating screen actors from London to Hollywood every generation

Here's to Britsploitation

It was the week of the Oscar nominations, a feverish time in Hollywood. Sasha Gervasi, a young British screenwriter, was in his two-room flat near Sunset Boulevard talking on the telephone to his agent, who was on the line with a list of studio executives, who were all on hold.

"It's 5.30 in the afternoon," Gervasi says, remembering it with awe. "My writing partner's with me on the speakerphone, and my agent says: 'On hold is the president of the William Morris Agency, the president of Miramax Pictures, the president of Fox Searchlight Pictures, the president of Polygram International and one of the presidents of Miramax UK on a portable phone in the loo of a London restaurant. Then she says: 'So what do you want to do?' "

What he did was put the agent on hold and lie down on the floor, paralytic with nervous laughter at having "the whole of Hollywood freaking out" over a script about a gay Scottish hairdresser mistakenly invited to take part in a world hairstyling championship in California. Then he and his Scottish co-writer and a British director struck what their lawyer called, with lawyerly restraint, a landmark deal.

"As far as Hollywood was concerned, we were three British unknowns," Gervasi says. "We went to every big studio in town and said, 'Here's the package. It's non-negotiable, we want complete creative control and we want to shoot right now.' They all lined up. Over lunch I went from unemployed to executive producer on $250,000 rewrite fees."

The cast of *The Full Monty* ought to like this story, because without them it could not have happened. Gervasi's script, which goes into production next month with a budget of $4 million, was eventually backed by Warner Brothers in a bid to come out with the next *Full Monty*. It is the latest sign that a resurgent British film industry has at last shed its image abroad as a patchy provider of period dramas and art-house flops. In this case — almost unthinkable two years ago — a mighty American studio turned to a British idea, not for kudos, but cash flow.

Sheffield's famous strippers will be having a jittery weekend. As they gather today for an annual British pre-Oscar tea party at a Santa Monica beach hotel, rumour has it they have been asked to perform their legendary floor show on Oscar night in front of a live television audience of a billion. They would also like to win the statue for Best

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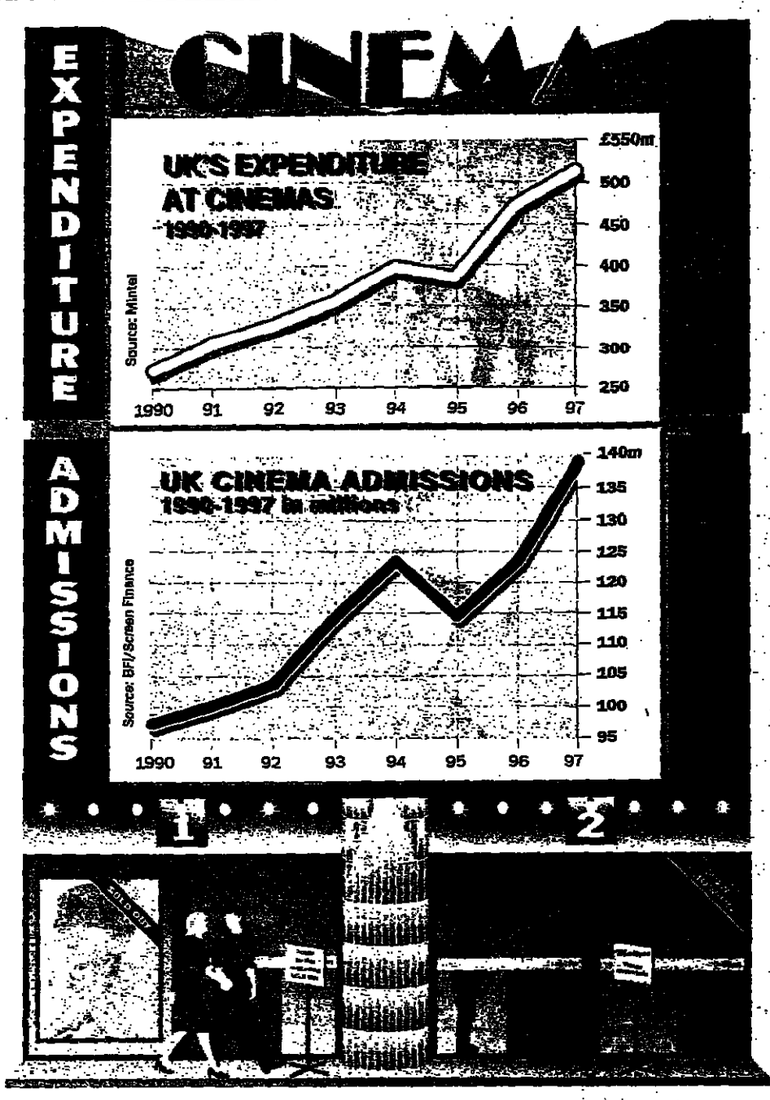


هكذا من الأصل



Veteran Dame Judi Dench: nominated for best actress

CINEMA





Sixties icon Julie Christie: nominated for best actress for her role in *Afterglow*

Continued from page 1

Picture. They may be disappointed but at least they have the consolation prize of changing the way Hollywood does business. It is not new for the British to arrive at the Oscars in numbers out of all proportion to the size of their native film business. Women such as Kate Winslet, Dame Judi Dench, Helena Bonham Carter and Julie Christie are heirs to a tradition founded by Charlie Chaplin that delivers a new crop of world-beating screen actors from London to Hollywood every generation.

Nor is it surprising when trendy film critics point to a haul of Oscar nominations and berate the government of the day for failing to nurture more of them. What is new this year is that the nominations are a sideshow. Far more significant for the future of British film is the fact that *The Full Monty* cost $2.5 million and took in $250 million worldwide, making it 20 times more profitable than *Titanic*. "People aren't stupid," says Tim Bevan, who deals with plenty of them on both sides of the Atlantic in his role as co-chairman of Working Title Films. "They see films that didn't cost much pulling in a commercial audience, and they notice."

Lottery money has helped. For all the rancour of the competition for last year's new film franchises, the prospect of 90 scripts being filmed which might otherwise have languished in development — among them *Hideous Kinky*, Winslet's latest vehicle — has only heightened international interest in Britain as a source of "product" for the global entertainment pipeline.

One result is a stemming of the talent-drain to Hollywood. In a different era Ewan McGregor, *Trainspotting*'s amiable heroin junkie, would be in California by now. Instead he has stayed in Britain to set up his own production company. Expatriates are coming home — Jonathan Gems, writer and director, to live in London; Paul Webster, producer, to Channel 4 Films; and Billy Connolly to act in *Mrs Brown*. Hollywood is becoming earnest about London as a place to do business.

Not all the American interest is in the long-cherished dreams of British auteurs. Pinewood, Shepperton and a converted Rolls-Royce factory at Leavesden have been used by the likes of Tom Cruise and Stanley Kubrick partly because they are huge, and partly because of production costs that are a third lower than in California.

Last year British films captured an unusually high 23 per cent of their own market, and this means the American talent scouts went sniffing. The first sign was a beefed-up presence in London for William Morris, the oldest Hollywood agency. Last autumn Miramax, the leading American low-budget film-maker, also opened a London office.

"The level of optimism is contagious, and I find it thrilling," says Lindsay Law, president of Fox Searchlight Pictures, which distributed *The Full Monty* and this week bought the English-language rights to Simon Beaufoy's *Among Giants*. "London is a wonderful place to be at the moment, and there's something very American about what's going on there. I was brought up in a country where one always believed that if you pulled yourself up by your bootstraps you could be anything. What I see now in the [British] film industry is exactly that kind of enthusiasm, and I think it could generate some wildly original work."

Speaking of bootstraps — though not of wild originality — this has been the season of cinema's most unlikely self-made man. Rowan Atkinson's *Bean* impressed neither the critics, nor the 5,000 film professionals who vote on the Oscars, nor their British counterparts who choose the Bafta nominees.

Atkinson was miffed. "The entertainment industry is littered with characters who have enjoyed broad popular appeal and a regular critical mauling," he sighed, "but it is difficult to think of examples where the gulf between popular perception and the media's perception is as wide as it is with *Bean*." But to earn $250 million worldwide on a budget of $22 million was not bad; to make nearly half that before being released in North America was unheard of.

"It was a movie milestone," said Tim Bevan, who produced *Bean*, in an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*. "We regarded it as a wake-up call to Hollywood, too." Apart from *The Full Monty*, the only other recent British film to have made so much of its money outside the US is *Four Weddings and a Funeral* — which Bevan also produced with Eric Fellner, his partner at Working Title.

Fellner remains a mild, almost shadowy presence at the powerhouse production company he helped found in 1991. But two international hits have made Bevan a booming purveyor of soundbites and a supporter of the Government's film policies.

"I don't really look to the Government for help," he says. "I look to them to acknowledge there's a valid commercial film industry here, and I think this lot are better than any previous administration in that respect. Every previous lot I've dealt with just thought of us as arty-farty."

It would be hard to make that mistake today. Bevan made his name in 1985, producing *My Beautiful Laundrette*, which won an Oscar nomination for Hanif Kureishi's script about anti-Asian racism in Margaret Thatcher's Britain. Fellner broke through the same year with *Sid and Nancy*. But 18 months ago, with *Bean* barely more than a collection of storyboards, they were plotting a move into the big-time.

When asked this week for a progress report, Bevan replied: "*Thunderbirds*." The subject matter, based on the television series, will not be much more sophisticated than the *Batman* films. The stars, not cast yet, will be big. The budget will be "up there with American event movies". The whole thing will be fraught with risk, but if released as planned at the end of next year, it will be the first British film of scale in decades.

To keep a lid on the risk for its backers — chief among them the Polygram recording giant — Working Title is also making *Notting Hill*, a follow-up to *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, with Hugh Grant as Forelock Man and Julia Roberts as his love interest.

This is how grown-ups make films in Hollywood: a mixed slate of projects with varying budgets and target audiences and a survivor's instinct for commercial themes. Bevan admits it is still a rare approach in Britain. "We're a bit out on a limb in rejecting the need for government coddling," he says, "because we're the lucky ones who don't need money. But even when I was an independent I never believed in subsidy as a means to getting my films made. At the moment there's a huge interest in everything in Britain and plenty of backers."

> 'What I see now in the British film industry is a wonderful kind of enthusiasm'

Therein lie dangers. Lindsay Law of Fox Searchlight warns from American experience that "easy money can mean easy movies" — banal or self-indulgent, but either way unwatchable. "The worry is that too many films could be made in the UK that are at best mediocre or fail to transcend British borders. But the producers who control these funds are pretty savvy. They know the market and have seen what movies have and haven't travelled."

With serious money being made at last, and even Lord Puttnam talking of "a real sense of vibrancy and excitement", these are heady times.

But in the real Hollywood who you are matters nearly as much as what you write, as Gervasi found. "It made a huge difference that we were British: it was crucial," he says. "The guy who championed our script at Warners was an Old Etonian."

● For a full list of Oscar nominations see news section.



Kate Winslet with her BAFTA for the [illegible] nominated *Titanic*

FRED PROUSER



Minnie Driver: a hot tip for best supporting actress



BEAUTIES OF THE BALTIC

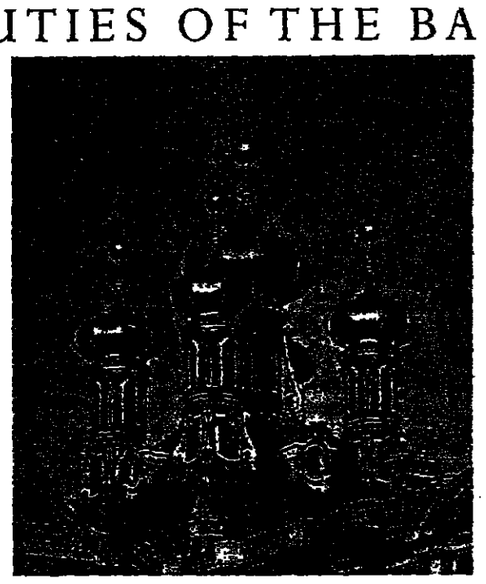
Cruises with a difference to Romantic Capitals and Hanseatic Ports

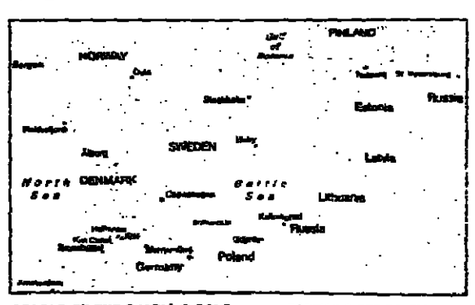
To voyage through Baltic waters is to slice through time itself, so rich are the historical references: from the simplicity of Viking settlements to the wealth of medieval trading cities, from the treasures of the Russian palaces to the majesty of the capitals of the numerous countries and cultures which encircle this landlocked sea. The region has so many stunning sights, so many truly beautiful places to visit, it's no wonder a cruise around the Baltic is a favourite amongst experienced travellers

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Day 10	Stockholm SWEDEN
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	Hohwisch GERMANY
Day 4	Bornholm DENMARK
Day 5	Visby SWEDEN
Day 6	Helsinki FINLAND
Day 7/8	St Petersburg RUSSIA
Day 11	Alborg DENMARK
Day 12/13	Oslo NORWAY
Day 15	Return DOVER

NORWAY & THE BALTIC

[BPR10] 12 nights departs Dover 11 July 9[illegible]
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Day 4	Flaklypgard NORWAY
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Day 10	Bornholm DENMARK
Day 11	Kiel GERMANY
Day 12	Brunsbuttel GERMANY
Day 13	Return DOVER

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'These children are a bomb in your husband's briefcase'

Joanna Trollope tells Valerie Grove about the pains of stepmotherhood, inspiration for her new bestseller

PAUL MASSEY



Joanna Trollope at home in Gloucestershire. "I found lots of step-parents asking themselves 'why do I have to love these horrible children who don't love me?' "

Joanna Trollope appears (just back from the dentist) immaculately groomed: tall, thin, elegant, ashen hair coiffed, perfect maquillage. "I have fair eyebrows and fair eyelashes, and in the morning I look like a rather tired boiled egg," she says. "So the first thing I do is put my lenses in and draw a face on."

Middle England's favourite writer, who says motherhood is "more central, more enriching, more proud-making than anything I've written," also knows about stepmotherhood, the theme of her new novel, *Other People's Children* (already a No. 1 bestseller).

She "simply adores" her own stepsons, so they can't have been like the all too recognisable teenagers in her book — sullen, ill-dressed, uncooperative, manipulative.

But, galvanised by discovering that in ten years there will be more stepfamilies in Britain than birth families, she set about interviewing other step-parents. "And the stuff just poured out," she whispers. "A hornet's nest! The pain, the jealousy, and 'why do I have to love these horrible children who don't love me?' "

Men confessed to corrosive bouts of retrospective sexual jealousy. Women confided their bewilderment at the stepchildren's devotion to the shrieking ex-wife. "How can they go on loving her when she's so ghastly?"

Until this century, she points out, the sainted mama was safely dead: snatched by God (i.e. puerperal fever). "But at least darling mama couldn't flap like some malevolent bat over the new relationship." Stepmotherhood, as someone in her novel says, "is like an unexploded bomb in the briefcase of the man you marry".

Nor is there a gentle running-in period for step-parents. "You get married in the morning, and go back and make spaghetti carbonara for an ill-assorted crew of resentful children. And you're in a smaller house, with no privacy, no going peacefully naked between bedroom and bathroom: the upsetting body must be shrouded from the horrified eyes of the stepchildren. One woman said, 'I'd never owned a dressing gown in my life, until I had to buy one for the sake of Mark's children'".

When Joanna remarried, her two daughters and his two sons were all teenagers: "You can't go to bed early without four pairs of eyes watching you like hawks."

The real social tragedies of step-families (children assaulted by their mothers' violent boyfriends) are not her scene. Middle-class middle England is Trollope's constituency, where people can articulate their feelings.

In recent years "there was an absolute orgy of me, and I got absolutely sick of me", as she puts it, so readers will be familiar with the history of her painful divorce from a banker, and her falling in love with Ian Curteis, the trim-bearded and bow-tied playwright.

The couple were given a church wedding by a former Bishop of Gloucester after preparation "like confirmation classes only more rigorous". But when Curteis's Falklands play was withdrawn by the BBC (too pro-Thatcher) the couple were "near bankruptcy". Joanna's midlife success was their salvation. They date everything "before and after *The Rector's Wife*".

But their post-*Rector's Wife* idyll has recently undergone an upheaval that sounds like a Trollope novel in itself. The picturesque old mill house they rented, where she wrote 13 books in 13 years, was reclaimed by its owner, and though they found another splendid manor house, they are moving again.

The new house, she says, was too much a statement of success. "The previous house was enormous, but my inner voice justified its size by saying 'it's only rented'. Now I somehow feel that my integrity, my sense of self, is threatened by a false packaging. I don't think I realised how important that was to me, until it got threatened.

"I am not, essentially, a different person. I no longer have an overdraft, and I have a certain worldly confidence about airports etc. But that's only a veneer. I know far more famous people, but my essential core of women friends hasn't budged for 30 years. I don't want a glamorous social life. I don't want to go to premieres. I want to go on as I always have. My priorities in life haven't altered one bit."

She has also had to confront the empty nest. "Whereas once I felt like a tree completely covered in woodpeckers — every child, and all the animals, and Ian, wanting something from me: find the car keys, or their Hopkins essay, or their black T-shirt that was in the wash." All the young have now flown. "I will write the empty nest novel — *but not* for perhaps a decade. It's better to let the compost rot down. When I'm through a rite of passage, I can write about it."

This, in short, explains her popularity: she writes about the way women of provincial England go on living and partly living, despite adversity.

Letters about step-parenthood will now pour in: "That is part of the reason I write. To say to people, don't worry, we are all in this difficult boat, it's perfectly all right to behave appallingly sometimes." Her conclusion about stepfamilies is that they can succeed, because people have to exercise courtesy.

"So instead of siblings not even bothering to be civil to one another — *why should they? — friendships* form among the children, in defiance of the miserable adults who have wrecked their lives."

The pearls of wisdom which drop, perfectly punctuated, from her polished lips — she once gave a stirring sermon in Oxford about the destructive passion for self-fulfilment peddled by women's magazines with their mantra "Love thyself" — have made her something of a moralist for our times.

She wants next to try writing about men. "Can you think of a novel about a really wonderful man? I don't mean heart-throb heroes; I agree with P.D. James about Mr Rochester being a chauvinist bully thug.

"There isn't even a truly heroic figure among Jane Austen's men. My mother was visiting Anthony Trollope's library, and picked up his copy of *Emma*, and he had scribbled in the margin, 'Mr Knightley is a stick'."

Having become more prosperous than her Victorian kinsman, Trollope is inundated with charitable appeals. So she has drawn a line round Gloucestershire — where she was born, at Minchinhampton in her grandfather's rectory — and set up a trust to help local people and causes. "Rural poverty and homelessness are real. This county has an appalling record of the haves declining to help the have-nots."

And on the eve of the Countryside March, it was she who lit the local beacon, high above the Severn Vale. "We had beer and sausages and saw the beacons glowing towards us through the misty darkling light. There was a thrilling feeling of unity and timelessness."

● *Other People's Children is published by Bloomsbury at £16.99.*

Smokers of the world unite

Alan Sillitoe defends the rights of addicts to light up where they like

ASHLEY COOMBS



Alan Sillitoe, 70, is now too old now to die young

I went out last week to celebrate my 70th birthday. In the restaurant I was asked to put out the cigar I had lit after the main course and wondered just what the world was coming to.

When I was young my father said, from inside a cloud of nicotine smoke: "Alan, you ought to give up cigarettes. They're not good for you. They're coffin nails. You should get yourself a pipe. A pipe's healthier. The streets are full of nub ends to fill 'em with."

We've always been smokers in our family, except my two sisters, who died of cancer in their forties. To the end of my mother's life she would sit watching television with a Park Drive smouldering in one hand, and a mug of strong tea in the other.

I took to cigarettes when I went to work in a factory at 14. Smoking was probably less harmful than the reek of machine oil, metal dust and disinfectant suds which I stood in for eight hours a day. A couple of years later I bought a pipe, perhaps influenced by seeing them wielded by RAF aircrew, the cheerful, intelligent and heroically doomed lot I was training to join.

The tobacco was ambrosial. A freshly opened tin smelt like Christmas pudding which, lit on a cold dark night on my way back from a girlfriend's house, filled the mouth and the air with a comforting and irreplaceable fragrance.

On active service in Malaya I took a fancy to the local cheroots, and always had a bundle between my morse key and a log book. To while away the lonely 14-hour night watches I also had a tin of Craven "A" cigarettes ("made specially to prevent sore throats") — the weekly allowance to all ranks. Tobacco fumes kept away noxious insects and snakes.

On returning to England my demob X-ray showed positive signs of tuberculosis. If I had nothing to lose before, I had even less now. Strangely, perhaps, no one was forbidden to smoke in the RAF hospital. After a minor operation, my first act on being tipped back into bed was to have a few puffs on a cigar before going to sleep.

I was demobilised and pensioned off at 21 — and who was to say that a pensioner should not smoke?

Not long ago I woke up in the morning with unaccustomed joy in my heart on realising I was too old to die young. I could go on smoking, drinking and doing anything else of which I was capable, and to hell with it. If I died ten years before my time what was one decade when set against eternity?

So for more than 50 years I've smoked a pipe, though I try not to light up before ten in the morning, or less than two hours after getting out of bed. By then, *"Tobacco, tobacco, Sing sweetly for tobacco!"* is trilling through my head, and the first pipeful has its usual intoxicating taste. People tell me I'd be healthier if I stopped. "You'll live longer. You'll save money. You won't be such a bane to others." But the real reason the anti-smokers try to get at you is that they don't like seeing anybody enjoy themselves. You disturb their notions of right and wrong. An example of free will is upsetting. Everyone should be like them. They don't smoke, so you shouldn't.

"Ah," they exclaim, "but if you become ill as a result of your vice, what about the cost to the National Health Service?"

"Well," I might reply, "what Health Service, for a start?" In any case, the smoker is unlikely to occupy more of the country's medical services than the valetudinarian anti-smoker who lingers for years in his bath chair, looked after by a disgusted family who wished he had snuffed it years ago. Or imagine dying earlier from some affliction unrelated to tobacco, as many non-smokers obviously must. What irony, that in the moments before oblivion, you regret all the tobacco you never smoked — alas, too late.

Fanatical anti-smoking people seem to be taking over the world. It's even worse in the United States, which is run by the anti-nicotine Gestapo, of which much of the population are plain clothes members. As with all such totalitarian regimes, the campaign was set going by middle-class liberals who for most of this century were trying to push Marxist-Leninist misery down the throats of everyone else. Having failed at that, they *turned to anti-smoking* and political correctness with virulence.

On a recent visit to America, a room in my hotel in Albany, New York, was set aside for *smokers*, as if they were lepers. I was directed to it on booking in at the reception desk with a pipe in my mouth. Said room had a large Baconesque painting of a rotted lung on the wall, which I thought rather fine. In fact, the room was peaceful, and I could write there undisturbed.

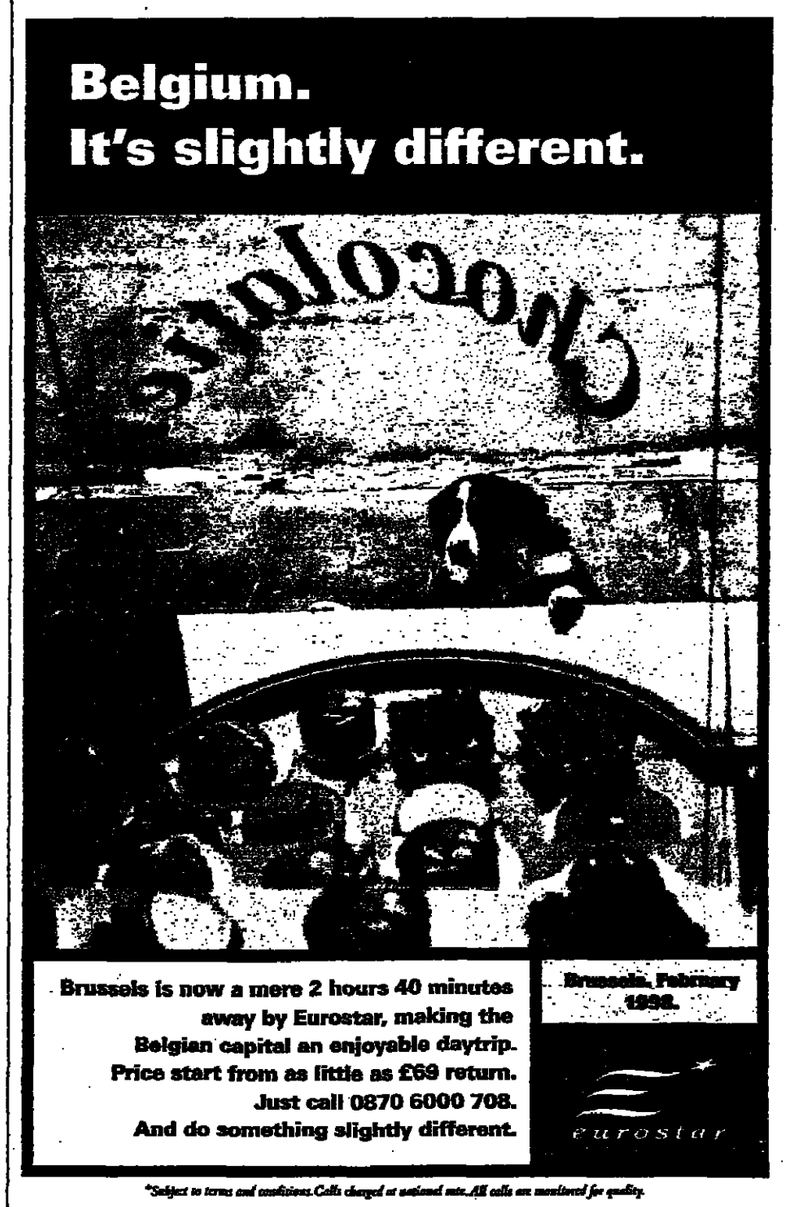
Send me your huddled masses, and they can go on huddling outside office buildings in the snow for a furtive guilt-inducing drag. Whatever happens in the Land of Liberty sooner or later comes to the country whose inhabitants never, never, never will be slaves. The BBC bans smoking in all its buildings, though I defy it whenever I'm interviewed. At their Nottingham studio I was requested not to smoke, and said in that case I wouldn't stay. It was free air time for them, after all. So they said I could smoke. Only Tony Benn had been allowed to do the same, and I was happy to be in the club of two.

Another disgraceful encroachment on the freedom of smokers is on Network South East, where no carriage is provided for those who want to take their fate into their own hands. So I go everywhere by car, and they can stuff their trains. You have to go over the Channel, to the comparative liberty of France, for such a facility. Or under the Channel, though that doesn't seem able to guarantee freedom from another sort of smoke.

The erosion of freedom begins with small matters, and as those who legislate have no notion of enslavement, they are more determined to pursue the rest of us. If they are against smokers, one day they will be hounding others for more sinister reasons.

It could be, however, that anti-smoking rigours are ameliorating. One reads of the resurgence of cigar smoking in the United States, and a smoker must be encouraged and certainly amused by those photographs from France of people smoking unmolested in bars and restaurants under prominent no smoking signs.

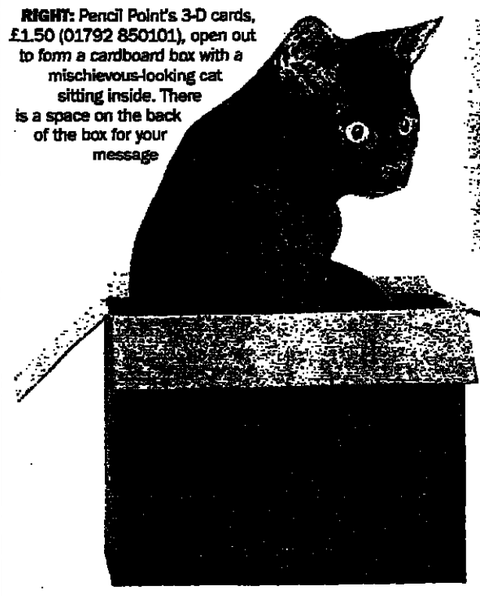
So if I can fabricate a slogan to highlight the issue, what about this: "Smokers of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your ash!"



*Subject to terms and conditions. Calls charged at national rate. All calls are monitored for quality.

هكذا من الأصل

Mum's the word tomorrow



RIGHT: Pencil Point's 3-D cards, £1.50 (01792 850101), open out to form a cardboard box with a mischievous-looking cat sitting inside. There is a space on the back of the box for your message



LEFT: Two yellow flowers nestle among shocking pink feathers around this photo frame, £6, size 5in x 3in, from Fluff (0181-672 0662)

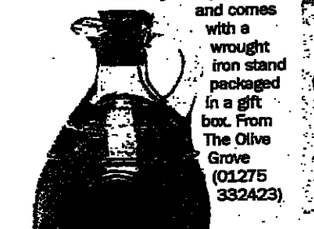


LEFT: Furry fun for mum, the leopard-print ballet slippers, £29.95, by La Maison De La Fausse are soft and light with a cotton filling. From Graham & Green (0171-727 4594)

BELOW: Great for dressing up simple food, this ceramic leaf dish (ref 58242) is £12.50 (p&p £6) from Divertimenti (0171-935 0689)



BELOW: Sanbitos extra virgin olive oil, £54 (incl p&p), is bottled in a Tuscan-style amphora urn and comes with a wrought iron stand packaged in a gift box. From The Olive Grove (01275 332423)



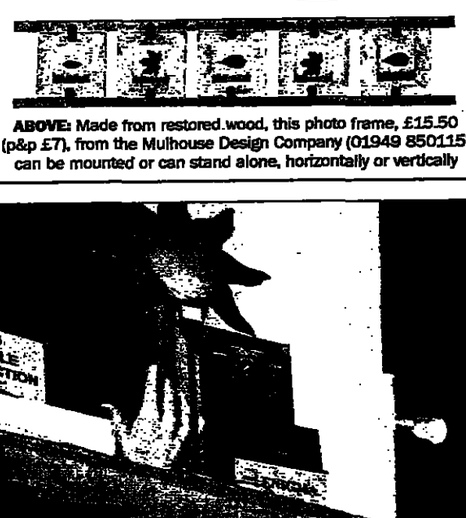
BELOW: Blood Orange Tea, £4.50, from the Eastern Shore Tea Company in America. From Felicitous (0171-243 4050)



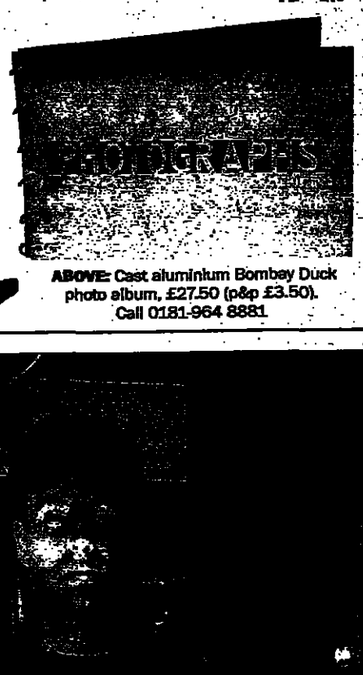


BELOW: Loud and Clear has a novelty greeting card perfect for Mother's Day: a pink rubber glove fringed with feathers, £7.50 (p&p £1.50). Silly, but more fun than flowers. Call 0171-247 4232

RIGHT: Kaz Levers' basking ceramic mermaid, £26.50 (p&p £3.50), is a colourful wall plaque with a dark green tail and vivid purple hair. From Hibiscus (01926 337716)



ABOVE: Made from restored wood, this photo frame, £15.50 (p&p £7), from the Mulhouse Design Company (01949 850115) can be mounted or can stand alone, horizontally or vertically



ABOVE: Cast aluminium Bombay Duck photo album, £27.50 (p&p £3.50). Call 0181-964 8881

MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS

You may have noticed the switch that has occurred in gift-card shop windows recently—valentines are out and mothers are in. They offer an instant reminder that tomorrow is Mother's Day.

Contrary to popular belief, Mother's Day originated not in modern-day America, but in ancient Greece. Every spring, the Greeks paid tribute to Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. In the 17th century, the English celebrated "Mothering Day", in honour of the Mothers of England, on the fourth Sunday of Lent.

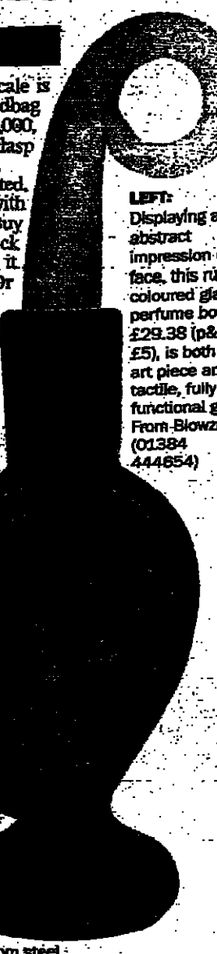
In 1907, Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia, moved by a memorial service for her own mother, began a campaign that seven years later resulted in President Woodrow Wilson instituting the very first commercial Mother's Day.

Although they seldom admit it, most mums love receiving gifts from their children. The amount of money you spend is up to you. At the ludicrously expensive end of the scale is the alligator Alma handbag from Louis Vuitton, £5,090, with a 24-carat gold clasp and zip (0171-399 4050).

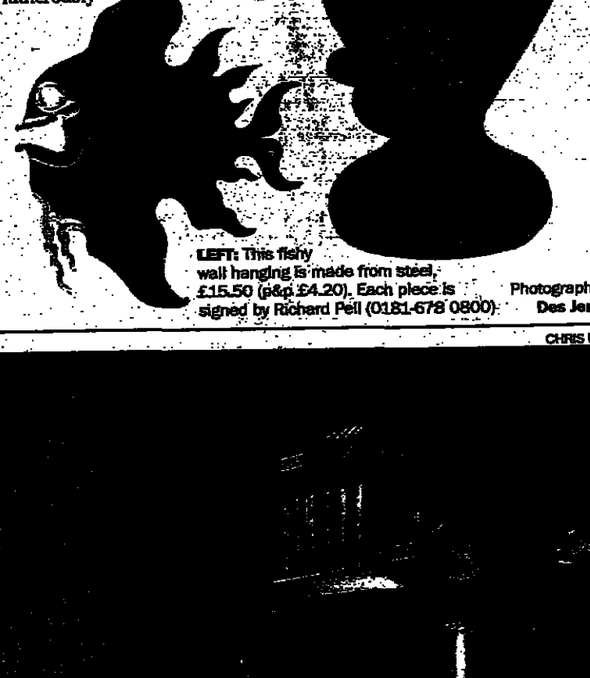
But if funds are limited, go for a cheaper gift with the personal touch. Buy her a Bombay Duck photo album, and fill it with photographs. Or give her a packet of Blood Orange Tea from Felicitous and brew a pot while she relaxes.

If cooking is her forte, the first six episodes of the Two Fat Ladies series are now available on video (£13.99). A good giggle, a dollop of thought and a dash of kindness makes any mother's day.

MARY ANN PERCY



LEFT: Displaying an abstract impression of a face, this ruby-coloured glass perfume bottle, £29.38 (p&p £5), is both an art piece and a tactile, fully functional gift. From Blowzone (01384 444654)



LEFT: This fishy wall hanging is made from steel, £15.50 (p&p £4.20). Each piece is signed by Richard Pell (0181-678 0800)

Photographs by Des Jensen

CHRIS HARRIS

SHOP WATCH

■ *Baccarat* sells more than just fabulously coloured crystal glasses. There is also wacky moulded crystal jewellery such as the Medici ring (£130), a vivid chunk of crystal traced with gold, and star-shaped pendants (£95) and earrings (£195). Baccarat, 37 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-409 7767).

■ **Blue**, in Manchester, is one of the cult shops whose owners buy "simple things we like". One week you can buy Tom Dixon furniture, the next grab an Emma Bernhardt bright plastic shopper. Find Blue at 35 Lapwing Lane, West Didsbury, Manchester (0161-446 2476).

■ **Mark Rogers**, the furniture designer, has launched *Evolution*, a mail-order catalogue. Find his own clear-cut designs, as well as furniture and lighting from names such as Philippe Starck and Ron Arad. Best buy has to be a Sixties blow-up armchair (£79). Call 0181-374 1120.

■ **Homebase's** Garden Design Service is the cheat's way to a great garden. Fill in the plan and questionnaire with your garden's vital statistics and requirements, and its consultant designer will hand-draw a plan with planting suggestions. Call 0645 801800 for a leaflet.

■ **Orianna Fielding Banks's** new gallery, Pure, opens at the end of this month, selling her futuristic furniture, rugs and glassware, plus other contemporary designers. Find it at 109 Clifton Street, London EC2 (0171-613 1111) . . . New into the **Royal Academy Shop** is intricately beaded jewellery, inspired by its current Art of Holy Russia exhibition. Call 0171-300 5757 for information.

■ **Jayne Sacchi** sells interior design's latest *fashion — antique* French linen sheets — direct from home. Ask her for a particular size, or specific monogrammed initials, and she will scour the markets in France for you. Call 0171-589 5643 for an appointment to view.

JUDITH WILSON



Luxury French linen

Spoonbender supremo Uri Geller with Enigma store owner Vanessa Lampert. "When I step into this shop I am transported to the smells and the sounds of Tibet. It has a very positive aura"

Where spoonbenders fork out

Uri Geller tells **Judy Goodkin** why he gets good vibrations at Enigma, regular haunt of the discerning psychic

my favourite shop

If you have ever found yourself wondering where paranormal operatives go shopping, here is the answer that you have been waiting for: Enigma, Rathbone Place, London W1.

Behind its unassuming shopfront, Enigma has become the provider of *all those little incidentals that members of the psychic fraternity find it impossible to live without*. I have this on the very best authority: Uri Geller's.

Paranormal luminary, not to mention ace spoonbender, Mr Geller is a devotee of what he now regards as his own cosy cornershop. He has felt this way ever since he stepped out of CNN's front door and into the tiny positive healing shop that stands in its shadow, less than a year ago.

This is his first port of call for such everyday essentials as crystals, incense and wind chimes. And were he ever to run out of authentic North Dakotan feathered dreamcatchers — large holes to let the good dreams through, small ones to cunningly trap the nightmares — he would find a fine array of those here too.

"When I step into this shop I am transported by my sixth sense to the smells and the sounds of Tibet. It has a very positive aura," Mr Geller assures me.

"We are fully feng shui'd." Enigma's bouncy proprietoress, Vanessa Lampert, says breezily, in tones usually reserved for the fully licensed restaurant. "That's the reason behind the water feature and why the metal chimes had to be moved across the shop to hang over the stairs; they were all wrong where we had them before," she explains. So upfront, friendly, so unspooky.

Enigma is no dark and dangerous voodoo cavern. It is not staffed by Gothic shopgirls with cobwebs in their ink-black hair. Enigma is less the commercial outpost of Hades, more a jolly gift shop. Among the standard reading on past life regression and astral projection, you will find hot-water bottles and birthday cards, candles and cuddly toys.

It could be that Ms Lampert has achieved a spiritual climate of the optimum balance, for standing here among the New Age chattels, Geller is clearly in ebullient mood: "They have just confirmed water on the moon," he says, his penetrating stare becoming a beam of delight and vindication. "You see, anything is possible," he adds, pointing to his UFO T-shirt, while clutching a favourite crystal he bought here. "We are entering a phase in our of our minds in the lead up to the millennium where we are beginning to appreciate that human potential is limitless."

Of course, Geller has always known this. He was four years old when an extraordinarily bright light from nowhere knocked him over, triggering his sixth sense. "I heard kittens crying in the little Arabic garden across the street. I went to investigate and a beam of light burnt into me. That was my first extraterrestrial experience. That evening, as I ate my soup in the kitchen of our tiny Tel Aviv flat, the spoon I was holding snapped in two. It didn't take long for me to be bullied for it."

Hoping to make sense of some of these painful early experiences, Geller has just published his first novel, *Ella*. It marks a turning point in his career, ushering in an introspective phase in which the power of prayer has overtaken the more superficial thrills of spoonbending.

Although he will continue to be available for such services as "energising" the World Cup or giving football the magic touch the way he did in 1966, Geller is inclined to spend more of his time helping the sick. It is not unusual for patients to report for surgery after a visit to Geller's home at Sonning-on-Thames, only to be told that they are already cured.

"I take my responsibilities seriously. I believe in God and under God anything is possible. My energies come from an outside source and I can share them. I never say, 'Let me take away your cancer', rather 'I can show you how to trigger your impulses positively'."

Equally, Ms Lampert has always known this too, and that is part of the bond they share. "It was second nature to me as a child. My father always knew when one of his employees was stealing from his sweet shop — they would appear to him in a dream and he'd see the stolen cigarettes in their bag.

"He read the tea leaves and could astrotravel. I never tried it myself because, once you have floated up and looked down on yourself from a height, it's such a struggle to get back in to your own body again afterwards. But I was not in the least surprised when the spiritual world began to call me."

Now, as owner of a pair of shops and more to come, Ms Lampert acts as dispenser, a helpful quasi-pharmacist whose advice can be sought for spiritual strain as easily as it is to pop into Boots for something to rub on to a strained muscle.

"People complain of feeling depressed, tired and uptight. So many counsellors come into our Crouch End branch drained by the sheer weight of problems dumped on them. I recommend Black Tourmaline from our range of tumbled stones, because it absorbs negative ions. I usually tell them to imagine a mirror between themselves and the client sapping their strength."

Below street level lies Enigma's other face: palmistry, tarot and psychic readings; a darker side that, I venture, is better left uncovered. "Anybody can curse their enemy if they have enough hate inside them — they don't need any of this stuff to do it," insists the briskly practical Ms Lampert.

Is there nothing that can give her the creeps? "If a strange customer walked in, we'd smudge the shop immediately with smudge sticks. It clears the air, lifts the positive ions out. We do it once a week." Don't we all?

● *Ella, by Uri Geller, is published by Hodder Headline, £9.99; proceeds to the Bristol Children's Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospital.*
● *Enigma, 23 Rathbone Place, W1, 10am-6pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun.*

GADGETS



WITH the millennium just around the corner, we appear to be turning into a nation of clock-watchers. *Tim Wapshott writes*. But few clocks are as enjoyable to watch as Timebeam, a precision "timepiece projector" from By Design of Oxford.

Timebeam throws a magnified image of an analogue clock across a room on to a wall or ceiling. The base unit, in weighty grey metal, measures 10in by 4in and stands 8in high.

Focusing the image is not entirely foolproof. Instead of screws for fine-focus tuning, you manually ease the projection lens through two stiff side-bars. This is a very handsome timepiece, but its price is a drawback.

● *Timebeam, £349.99, from The Leading Edge (0171-499 7891)*









Cowgirls with fringe benefits



Fashion has always encouraged clones, but this summer inspiration comes from a surprising source. Dolly. Not the Dolly of *Hello Dolly* fame, nor the world's first baaing clone, but the one and only eyelash-batting, heel-wearing, peroxide-loving urban cowgirl, Dolly Parton.

Since the Fifties, when film's wild women of the West captured Bucking Bill's heart with little lacy shirts, high heels and swinging tassels, the look has been a sure-fire way of winning admiration.

Whether it was Jane Russell in *The Tall Men* in 1955 capturing the elusive Clark Gable, or Uma Thurman seducing the Nineties mystic in *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*, women have known the power of cowboy boots, a soft bit of leather and a tantalising fringe buckskin.

This year, the look is just as provocative as that flaunted by Dolly in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. As well as using Western favourites such as white leather, short skirts with buckskin fringes and short-cropped denim jackets, designers have updated the look with simple black leather tops, off-the-shoulder shirts and sequins.

Alexander McQueen at Givenchy led the stampede with his low-cut, short-skirted fringed leather dresses teamed with embellished leather boots; Antonio Berardi joined the corral with traditional stetsons embossed with sequins and pleated-edge mini-skirts; Katharine Hamnett paraded little denim shorts with tie-front tops, and Daisy Duke hotpants.

On the high street, several fashion chains have jumped on the Western bandwagon. Oasis has delicate fringed dresses for under £50, Morgan a suedette cream tasselled skirt for £15, and Warehouse fringed stretch dresses for £60.

It is not only the tough-shooting appearance that has hit bullseye. There is a touch of the romantic home-on-the-range look too. Off-the-shoulder drawstring tops which reveal fine shoulders have returned, as have swishing peasant-like skirts and chap-like pants. Miu-Miu, for example, has simple cotton elasticised-neck tops in red, white or pale blue; Nicole Farhi similar styles in dresses; Kookai revealing white shirts.

Authentic Western accessories, too, are easy to lasso, whether it is large items — a cowhide handbag for £320 from J&M Davidson, fringed ankle boots from Shelleys or cowboy boots with elaborate appliqué from R. Soles or Gina — or a tiny dramatic touch, such as a sheriff's badge, beaded belt or rhinestone jewellery. Anna Molinari, for example, had models with peasant-like dresses with cowboy boots and Navajo turquoise-embellished belts; Anna Sui crocheted dresses with equally delicate stetsons.

The idea is not to look like you're heading off to a line dance, but to mix a touch of trailer-trash sexiness with *Urban Cowboy* glamour. Forget *The Little House on the Prairie*, and think a mix of Charlene in *Dallas* and Joni Mitchell at Woodstock. Then all that's left to do is to add glittering blue eyeshadow, a slick of lipgloss and a dreamy pout, and prepare for the arrival of Marlboro Man.

LISA GRAINGER



ABOVE: Jacket, £45, Warehouse (0171-278 3491). Top, £250, Chloé, Joseph (0171-590 6200). Skirt, £110, Tocca, Browns (0171-491 4944). Stetson, £39, R. Soles (0171-351 5520)

ABOVE RIGHT: Jacket, £490, Strenesse (0171-823 3799). Shirt, £220, Fly Now by Chamnan, Pellicano (0171-482 6578). Trousers, £46, Jigsaw (0171-491 4484). Leather belt, £238, Harrods, as above. Stetson, £150, Stephen Jones (0171-242 0770)

ABOVE CENTRE: Top, £85; skirt, £215, Antonio Berardi, Liberty (0171-734 1234). Stetson, Stephen Jones, as above. Boots, £650, Manolo Blahnik (0171-352 3863)

ABOVE LEFT: Dress, £1,050; shoes, £250, Givenchy, Harvey Nichols (01932 245111)

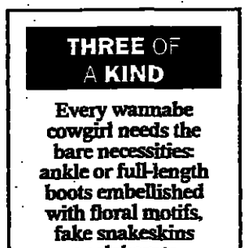
LEFT: Jacket, £580; denim sparkle jeans, £139, Pellicano, as above. Suede bandeau, £145, Iceberg (0171-225 0515)

THREE OF A KIND

Every wannabe cowgirl needs the bare necessities: ankle or full-length boots embellished with floral motifs, fake snakeskins or elaborate stitching. LG

Black leather rose boots, £175, R. Soles (0171-351 5520)

Dark brown snakeskin ankle boots, £70, Ravel (0171-436 3126)



Pale pink leather boots, £140, Red or Dead (0114-273 7827)

Jacket, £567, Agnès b (0171-225 3477). Top, £125, Ghost (0181-960 3121). Skirt, £9.99, H&M (0171-255 2031). Boots, £89, Red or Dead (0114-273 7827)

Photographs by **Nick Farrell.** Hair and make-up by **Noriko Kerns** using **Estée Lauder** Double Wear Stay in Place Makeup SPF10; Compact Disc eyeshadows; ReNutriv All-Day Lipstick in Caffe Latte. Styling by **Amandip Uppal.** Model: Joy

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هكذا من الأصل

Turkey is preparing for an unlikely invasion – the fish 'n' chip shop. **Rohan Daft** reports

Things can only get batter

PAGE ONE



Bülent Beslioglu mastering the art of fish and chip cooking before returning home to Turkey

Any day now six tons of prime Hull haddock — some 80,000 of the things — will arrive on Bülent Beslioğlu's doorstep in Istanbul. They will be travelling with enough chips, gherkins and pickled onions to keep them in good company, and more than enough batter mix to fill a long jumper's sandpit.

Mr Beslioglu, 24, is well prepared for this English invasion, however. An Instanbul fish chef of some repute, he has spent the past two weeks — his first time ever outside his native Turkey — in a chip shop in Belper, an unassuming town in Derbyshire, mastering that most English piece of kitchen equipment, the deep fat fryer. Later this month he will transfer his new-found skills to Istanbul to open Turkey's first fish and chip shop. If all goes well, Delta Foods, the Anglo-Turkish company behind this venture, plans to open four more fish and chip shops in the city in the next two years. And as soon as that is done, it's look out the rest of Turkey.

> 'Fish and chips are really coming back'

The man behind the venture in Britain is Andrew Constantinou, 28, the smart-suited and enterprising son of Greek Cypriot parents. Despite the vagaries of culinary fashion, the financial squeeze applied by high-street burger wars, and the inexorable rise of chicken tikka masala which have hit fish and chip sales for six, the redoubtable Constantinou sees a bright future overseas for our traditional dish, especially, he says, in Turkey.

He inherited his first shop from his parents three years ago and now owns three smart, clean and award-winning fish and chip shops/-restaurants called Georgie's Tradition in Belper, Allestree and Nottingham. He must be one of the youngest and most ambitious fish and chip owners in the land. According to Mr Constantinou, the future of fish and chips, in Turkey as in Tadcaster, lies in quality more than quantity.

"Ninety per cent of fish and chip shops in this area are typical," he says. "They've moved from wood panelling to tiles on the wall but they've still got that downtrodden image. I came into this with a business approach, and said, 'Right, we're going to come up with a great product, we're going to give people great service, and we're going to do it effectively.' We've got a wonderful reputation because our product is good. The fish is fresh and the batter is not soggy inside. People's expectations of fish and chips have been low but we've turned that around. We've created a new market wherever we've opened."

And so to Turkey, the market Mr Constantinou now has his eye on, and a country where, he says, one Englishman of his acquaintance was once greeted on the street with "Hello Man United. Do you like fish and chips?" A cynic might scoff but Savas Kuce, director of the Turkish Tourist Office and a former Under Secretary at the Turkish Ministry of Tourism, says: "If a fish and chip shop opens in Istanbul, Turkish people will definitely go there. Turkish people like white fish, like haddock."

For the Turkish operation and Bülent Beslioglu's guidance, he has produced a 500-page manual on how to run a successful fish and chip shop. It covers "everything from cleaning to opening and closing time," he says. And over the past two weeks there were, naturally, endless practical lessons.

"The first thing Bülent learnt was how to make batter," says Mr Constantinou. "It's very important to get the batter right. Then it's important how to spot good quality fish by looking at the quality and texture of it, and smelling it."

Mr Beslioglu's frying skills progressed little better than his broken English but he was clearly thrilled with what he had learnt and more than confident that his fish and chips would take Turkey by storm. "A lot of people are eating fish and chips," he says. "Potatoes and fish. Very nice. The shop will be very busy."

And he might be right. Andrew Constantinou, says: "Fish is regarded as the main meal in Turkey. Bülent loved the fish and chips here. The Turks will see it as another fast food (burger joints are a big hit in Turkey) because they don't have that preconceived idea of fish and chips."

He says market research has proved that fish is more popular in Turkey than meat or chicken. "There are a lot of people down by the Bosphorus frying fish, wrapping bread around it and selling it," he says. "The Turks are big on fish. There is also quite a big English community in Turkey — about 25,000 — and that will help. Istanbul is cosmopolitan and there are 14 million people there. Fish and chips might be the antithesis of the Mediterranean diet but so, too, is the burger.

"Our first shop is in a 'food court'. There's a Burger King there, and a Kentucky Fried Chicken ... all the big names." Mr Constantinou hopes the Turks will buy 1,000 portions a day from the first shop. "Fish and chips are really going to start coming back," he says beaming enthusiasm, though without stating exactly where.

But with almost every British high street now possessing at least two kebab shops, he may well be right.

Drink



Jane MacQuitty

The Italian wine map is a minefield, but tread carefully and you could be pleasantly surprised

No country is more richly endowed with diverse, delicious wine styles and flavours than Italy. It lives up to its classical name, Enotria, the land of vines. The trouble is that few of us have tasted the great wines that Italy produces.

Italy is not interested in trumpeting its top wines, and its highly individual and idiosyncratic winemakers expect you to do the donkey work to find them. To make matters worse, the Italian wine law, DOC (*Denominazione di origine controllata*) and DOCG (*Denominazione di origine controllata e garantita*), which should indicate where the good stuff lies, does not. Some of the worst wines of Italy have DOCGs and many of the finest wines avoid the authorities altogether by hiding behind the humblest *vino da tavola* labels. The Italian wine map is a minefield that even Italian wine experts admit they are exasperated by.



I have studied Italian wine for more than two decades but had never tasted a good frascati until this week. My road of Damascus experience with what is usually a disgusting, thin, swimming-pool scented white came when Dalhir Singh from Mille Gusti delivered a bottle of the 1996 Campo Vecchio Frascati Superiore from the Adriana Croce Santarelli winery. This £10.95 frascati will not set the world alight, but a nutty bouquet, apricot palate and a sturdy 12.5 per cent alcohol makes it the first frascati I have ever been able to recommend (La Vigneronne, 0171-539 6113).

Italy has the inherited good fortune of plenty of noble indigenous grape varieties and lots of different regions in which they are grown. On top of this multifaceted historical inheritance has been superimposed fashionable modern grape varieties like cabernet and chardonnay, merlot, pinot noir and sauvignon blanc. None of these imports has pushed the traditional Italian red varieties like nebbiolo and sangiovese and white varieties like garganega and vernaccia off the Italian stage. Similarly, new wave winemakers, like the New Zealand master of wine Kym Milne, who have been imported by joint ventures for their international skills and ability to make large quantities of cheap, clean, glugable, ripe fruit-dominated wines, have only had walk-on parts.

With all these wine strands running side by side, drinkers of Italian wine have never had it so good. The other great bit of news is that, for the second year in a row, Italy has had a great vintage. Most Italian regions and producers made fine 1996 reds and whites. But, by comparison, all agree that 1997 is truly vintage of the century stuff.

Clearly, it is going to be a great *riserva* year. So far the majority of the 1997 reds that I have tasted all display gorgeous aromas, terrific dark colours and tremendous fruit and flavour. The 1997 whites also reveal lovely scented bouquets with heaps of fruit. The crop is smaller than usual, about 15-20 per cent down, but I suspect this has merely given the year extra character.

With two good vintages under their belt, Italian winemakers are more optimistic about the future than ever before. It is in the hot and relatively impoverished south, in regions like Campania, Apulia, Basilicata, Calabria and the islands of Sicily and Sardinia that this new-found optimism is most noticeable. For proof, turn up at any Majestic Wine Warehouse next weekend for its free Italian wine tasting and sample fresh, fruity 1997 whites, like the 1997 Cavalchina Bianco di Custoza, with plenty of green apple, lemon and marzipan-spiked fruit. Good value at £4.99. The same price brings you the 1997 Cavalchina Bardolino, whose earthy, zesty, pickled cherry palate is again a sound purchase. On the next tier up is the 1994 Carpineto Chianti Classico Riserva, £9.49 worth of delicious, juicy, concentrated oak-influenced plum and cedar fruit that drops to £8.99, besides other Majestic discounts until May 11.

Seek out, too, the last bottles of Apulia's best-value red — the 1994 Primitivo del Salento Barrique Aged version whose gorgeous warm briary rustic spice is £5.99 at Wine Rack and Bottoms Up. Equally, go for the tremendous soft, elegant, tarry fruit of the 1995 Falerno del Massicio Rosso Villa Mathilde (Liberty Wines, Unit A53, The Food Market, New Covent Garden, London SW8, £9.29; Swig, 206 Haverstock Hill, London NW3, £9.99) and the traditional 1992 Amarone Classico della Valpolicella Vignetti Casterna — full of rich, perfumed, beefy elegance (50cl, Waitrose £8.45).

NEXT WEEK: Bottled water

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

VIP TICKETS FOR BBC GOOD FOOD SHOW



Today *The Times* offers readers the chance to attend the opening day of the BBC Good Food Show at Olympia, on Wednesday April 1, and enjoy one of three celebrity chef cookery demonstrations, for only £10 — a saving of at least £4.

The five-day event features more than 40 of the world's top chefs including celebrities Ainsley Harriott and Gary Rhodes (pictured), leading restaurateurs Terence Conran and Oliver Peyton, food and drink from across the world and the latest kitchen gadgets and cookware. There are three demonstrations to choose from which normally cost £5.50: Paul and Jeanne Rankin *Ireland Inspiration*, Antony Worrall Thompson *No Bones Attached* or Alastair Little *A Little Italian Magic*. The shows take place in the BBC Good Food Magazine Celebrity Theatre, *in association with Waitrose*. Readers are also invited to *The Times hospitality* room, sponsored by Sainsbury's, to enjoy free tea, coffee and wine.

To book your ticket(s) in advance and reserve your place(s) at one of the shows call the number below quoting *The Times* offer and present the voucher, right, at the show. Alternatively, you can buy your ticket(s) on the day and get free entrance to one of the three shows using the voucher but note that seats for the celebrity shows are subject to availability on the day. All tickets are valid from 12pm

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THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT

Babycham



PERHAPS more than any other beverage, Babycham has been a victim of its own success. The extraordinary rise of the little "perry", or pear cider, fermented by the champagne method, made its founder a considerable fortune, with the drink's popularity boosted throughout the Fifties and Sixties by some very successful marketing. The "baby" bottles still sell in quantity, even today. To whom I could not begin to guess. There cannot be that many dedicated cynics about.

The Shepton Mallet company gave Babycham an identity far removed from mere cider. With its own little "coupe" glasses, blue-foil capsule and slogan "Nothing sparkles like a Babycham", the product was sold as a fun, miniature champagne-like experience. From the Fifties until the late Eighties, Babycham was promoted by its own bevy of lovelies: the Babycham babes.

The desperate advertising death throes of the little deer in the 1980s, however, were as tear-jerking as anything Disney could have imagined. Finally, the company accepted that its target should be divorcees and OAPs, with a series of unlikely reconciliations promoted by a perry. And last year, a giant model of the ageing icon was to be publicly hosed down by the Babycham babes (some of whom must now be in their 60s) as a final stunt before everything went quiet.

KATE STRONACH

HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK

IT'S FUNNY that the moment we get some sun and warmish weather every restaurant goes into Mediterranean mode. Down in the southern states of Italy and Sicily they already have enough sun to grow the summer favourites. My cheat this week will enable you to put a suitably sunny starter on the table in 15 minutes.



I came across this dish in California after a day in the kitchens of the famous Chez Panisse restaurant in Berkeley — wilted greens rolled up in prosciutto and served on a plate. It was wonderful, using a combination of rocket, turnip tops and other greens. Sadly it's impossible in this country to go to the greengrocer and ask for "greens". If you do you will be sold "spring greens" which are completely different. The cheat here is to use some good salad containing at least some rocket and vinaigrette. "Cali-

4 tbsp red wine vinegar, 6 tbsp olive oil, 4 small shallots, finely chopped, 2 x 100gm bags of salad, 8 slices prosciutto San Daniele or parma, 4 tbsp grated pecorino, 8 tbsp good extra virgin olive oil, 1 clove of garlic, juice of one lemon

Combine the mustard and vinegar with salt and pepper and whisk in the olive oil. In a shallow saucepan pour in the vinaigrette and the shallots and apply heat. When the vinaigrette bubbles, throw in the salad and stir it until the salad collapses. Take care not to let it cook down completely. Place the prosciutto on a flat surface and put an eighth of the salad on each slice and then roll each one up loosely. Put two on each plate. Then place the pecorino in a bowl with the garlic and black pepper and stir in the olive oil and lemon juice. Spoon this dressing over

STAR BUYS

1997 Château de Sours, Bordeaux Rosé, Corney & Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, London EC1, £5.95, Majestic Wine, £5.99

With spring warming up, encourage sunny thoughts by swigging the best vintage made yet of this vibrant, rosy-red rosé from an Englishman in Bordeaux, Esmé Johnstone. Its rich redcurranty palate, due to 1997's extra dash of ripe, concentrated fruit, will go down well with everything from chicken to lamb, including stir fries and curries.

1995 Château Pradeau, Mazeau, Bordeaux Rouge, £8.45, Laytons, 0171-388 4567

The more I taste good ordinary clarets from the excellent 1995 vintage, the more I like them. This one from the heart of the bordeaux region is great with roasts and casseroles. Made from a standard bordeaux mix of two-thirds merlot to one-third cabernet sauvignon with just 5 per cent cabernet franc, the result is a fine claret with lots of grip and tannin that is especially good with lamb.

BEST OF THE REST

Laytons goes from strength to strength with a pre-Easter selection of dozens of discounted wines with a 5 per cent discount on top if you buy five cases or more. My vote goes to Laytons' lofty

The Times Cook



Frances Bissell

Jetlag need not strand you after travelling. The right food and drink can revitalise a lagging body in hours

After a long flight and a few weeks' travelling away from home, your body quickly tells you what it wants for nourishment and repair. Mine wants raw food, vegetables and starches for a few days.

So the juicer is the most used attachment on my food processor. Fruit and vegetable juices replenish moisture lost in heated hotels and air-conditioned aircraft cabins. In addition, they give an immediate and powerful infusion of minerals and vitamins. There is no limit to the juices you can make up from fresh ingredients. I like the recipe below — red, sweet, full-flavoured and peppery. The leftovers make a very useful vegetable broth, which in turn makes a perfect lunch accompanied by some good bread.

But experiment with the juicer. Try a green juice with apples, celery, green peppers, spinach and watercress. Carrots and pineapple, together with yellow pepper, a



small swede and some fresh ginger, also produce a power-packing zinger of a golden cocktail. This is an area of food preparation in which the organic vegetable box schemes really come into their own. And there are plenty of books on juicing and on the beneficial properties of individual fruit, vegetables and herbs, so that you can make up your own combinations.

Vegetables are also excellent combined in rice and pasta dishes, of which I have included two very simple recipes: beetroot risotto and pasta primavera. That particular risotto developed from the broth I was using, rich garnet red from the beetroot juice. Use a green broth, from green juice, to make a celery or broccoli risotto, an orange or yellow broth to make a carrot or pumpkin risotto.

Delicate in flavour, a simple vegetable risotto is every bit as good as a risotto full of rich ingredients — truffle, shellfish, wild mushrooms. One of the best I ever tasted was in Florence; the rice was combined with nothing more than celery and carrot, finely diced, and flavoured with rosemary.

Similarly, pasta dishes can range from the simple to the sumptuous. As an antidote to jetlag I favour the former. A few vegetables, dropped into the pasta water at appropriate intervals, are all you need to make a complete dish, exceedingly simple to prepare, and needing no more than one saucepan.

Vegetable soups will also appeal to the jaded or jetlagged palate, even at the same meal as a bowl of pasta, if you wish. I had always been brought up to think that one did not eat soup and pasta at the same meal. In a little Roman trattoria one night, I scolded my husband for wanting to order soup, and pointed out that it was not done. He immediately told me to look over at the party of elegant Romans on the other side of the room. Pasta followed soup, then the main course, cheese and pudding, and then the chef brought in a steaming bowl of spaghetti carbonara. When in Rome . . .

Polenta is another comforting starch. Stir into cold water, bring to the boil and simmer gently until soft. I find this method works just as well as pouring a stream of it into a pan of boiling water. Serve it freshly cooked with some cheese and a knob of butter stirred into it. Fresh mushrooms, sliced and gently fried in olive oil, with a little finely chopped parsley, make a good topping for the polenta, as they do for hot buttered toast, another comforter.

A steaming bowl of oriental soup noodles is also appealing, for which you can use the vegetable broth recipe below, adding some shedded greens and fresh oyster and shiitake mushrooms to the noodles.

For pudding, after a surfeit of pastry chefs' creations, when I am feeling tired and not very adventurous, I am happy with apple purée, whether mixed with yoghurt, served with poached dried apricots or used in a soufflé flavoured with plenty of cinnamon or nutmeg.

Jetlag tonic
Makes about 800ml to 1 litre

- 2 beetroots
- 1 small swede
- 3 or 4 celery stalks
- 2 large carrots
- ½ bunch watercress
- Bunch of parsley stalks
- 1 cooking apple
- 1 red pepper

Scrub and rinse the vegetables as necessary. Cut into pieces and feed through the juicer, a few pieces at a time. Serve immediately. You may need to stop halfway through the process to remove the build-up of fibrous residue. Use this for the next simple recipe.

Vegetable broth
Makes about 1.75 litres

Take the residue from the above juice mix, put in a large saucepan, add two litres of water and simmer for an hour or so. Strain into a jug, pressing to remove as much extract as possible. This will make a deep red broth, which you can use for bortsch, or in a rich, red risotto.

Vegetable soup
Serves 4

- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 2 onions, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 celery stalk, peeled and finely chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 x 400g can chopped tomatoes
- 1.75l vegetable stock
- 2 leeks
- ¼lb Savoy cabbage
- 2 courgettes
- Handful of green beans
- Fresh herbs, such as basil, chives, parsley

Heat the oil in a large saucepan or casserole and gently fry the onions, celery, carrots and garlic in it until soft: this will take 20 to 30 minutes and is what gives the soup its underlying depth of flavour.

Stir in the chopped tomatoes and cook until most of the liquid from it has evaporated. Add the stock, bring to the boil and simmer while you prepare the green vegetables. Shred the cabbage, slice or dice the courgettes and break up the beans. Add to the simmering stock and cook until the vegetables are tender.

Stir in the chopped herbs, season at this point and ladle into hot soup bowls, with a little more olive oil floated on top. Pasta can be added to the soup when you put in the green vegetables and canned beans added towards the end for a one-pot meal.

ALAN ADLER



Beetroot risotto
Serves 2-4

- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 celery stalk, peeled and finely sliced
- 300g Arborio rice
- Salt
- Pepper
- About 1 litre vegetable broth, boiling
- ½ beetroot, grated
- Parmesan cheese

Gently fry the onion and celery in the olive oil until translucent and golden, and then stir in the rice, a little seasoning and a ladle or two of broth.

Stir and cook until the rice has absorbed the liquid. Add the beetroot and a little more broth, and continue cooking, adding more hot liquid until the rice is cooked to your liking. Stir in a little cheese and serve in heated soup plates with extra cheese handed round separately.



Pasta primavera
Serves 2

- 200g spaghetti, or other pasta
- Handful of slim green beans, topped and tailed
- 1 small fennel bulb, trimmed and cut into thin wedges
- 6 pieces of dried tomato, cut into strips
- ½ bunch of watercress, rinsed and chopped
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Several sprigs of flat-leaf parsley, rinsed and chopped
- Salt
- Pepper

Bring a large pot of water to the boil, lightly salted if you wish, and add the pasta.

After five minutes add the beans, fennel and tomato and continue cooking until the pasta is cooked *al dente*. Drain, using the boiling water to heat the serving bowl. Tip the pasta back into the saucepan with some olive oil, the chopped watercress and parsley, and plenty of freshly ground black pepper.

Stir and transfer to the hot serving bowl, from which you have emptied the water. Serve immediately with a chunk of Parmesan for grating.

© Frances Bissell 1998

NEXT WEEK:
The Times Cook in Yorkshire.

THE PERFECT SCONE

Dough that's done to a T

TOMORROW is Mother's Day. Take her some fresh scones or invite her to tea. The art of the perfect scone is a skill worth acquiring, not least because it is so easy.

■ INGREDIENTS: to make ten scones, you need 250g self-raising flour, 125g butter (chilled and diced), two tablespoons plain yoghurt, mixed with about 175ml cold water, or the equivalent quantity of soured milk or buttermilk.

■ METHOD: with your fingertips, rub the flour and butter together until it resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Stir in enough liquid to make a soft, pliable dough. Transfer to a floured worktop and knead lightly and briefly until smooth. Roll and cut out scones. Bake at 200C, gas mark 6, in a preheated oven for about 15 minutes, until well-risen and golden.

■ TIP: my mother taught me to put the scones on the baking sheet close together, to encourage them to rise well and evenly. It never fails, and gives a nice tender edge to the scone.

NEXT WEEK:
The perfect fried fish

CONSUMING INTERESTS: PESTO

BRITAIN'S supermarketeers are not content with the ubiquity of pesto sauce. Serving suggestions on those I have been trying proposed adding it not only to pasta but to "sauces, soups, salad dressings, rice, with soft cheese, and to stuff chicken breasts, mix with mayonnaise or into softened butter and stir into hot cooked vegetables" (St Michael); "gnocchi, casseroles or spread on *bruschetta* (toast)" (Tesco); and to "fromage frais, natural yogurt or soured cream" (Safeway). I tried mine in most of these ways, but my feeling is that jarred sauces are only good enough for emergency snackery.

ROBIN YOUNG



Asda Italian Pesto Sauce, *£1.29 for 190g jar.*
Claims: "Basil sauce for pasta." 39.7 per cent fat.
Verdict: Made with sunflower oil, not olive, and grana padano (cheaper than true Parmesan), with a suggestion to add your own Parmesan topping. A lot of spare oil at the top and the flavour, while sharp and cheesy, was not appetising. **No star**

Harrods Freshly Made Pesto Sauce, *£2.79 per 100g in tub or tray.*
Claims: Made with extra virgin oil, grana padano and pecorino cheeses and pistachio and pine kernels.
Verdict: Vivid green sauce with oily, juicy texture. Spreads well on pasta, and a tangy, appealing flavour. Remnants mashed very satisfactorily into potato, and I finished the carton with relish. A triumph for freshness rather than for Harrods, whose price is pretty horrendous. ★★★★

Harvey Nichols Pesto alla Genovese, *£5.95 for 270g jar.*
Claims: No nutritional breakdown provided, but contains cashews, peanuts, walnuts and pine nuts.
Verdict: Vivid colour, a moist herby mulch with fragments of nuts and cheese clearly visible. Outstanding among the jarred versions and, despite its 12-month shelf life, could easily be mistaken for fresh. Delicious. ★★★★

Safeway Italian Pesto, *£1.49 for 190g jar.*
Claims: "Basil sauce made with fresh basil." 45.1 per cent fat.
Verdict: Paler than most, but retains slight aroma of basil. Flavour: bland. ★½

Merchant Gourmet Pesto alla Genovese, *£2.99 for 180g jar, from Waitrose or delicatessens.*
Claims: Livio Crespi uses only the top six inches of fresh local basil, "which unlike basil produced in the rest of Italy is not too minty and has a very pure and intense flavour".
Verdict: The straightforward recipe using only extra virgin olive oil, basil, pine nuts, garlic and salt, avoided the acrid flavour found in many jarred pestos. Pine nut flavour more noticeable in this than any other. ★★★½

Sainsbury's Italian Salsa al Pesto, *£1.79 for 120g shallow plastic tub.*
Claims: Only 34.9 per cent fat, of which 8.9 per cent is saturates. Also notably light in sodium (salt). Fresh.
Verdict: Fusty, tired flavour, sickly and off-putting. The serving suggestion proposes adding more grated Parmesan, but that would be a waste. **No star.**

St Michael Italian Pesto Sauce, *£1.59 for 190g jar.*
Claims: "With fresh basil, olive oil and pine nuts." 43.3 per cent fat.
Verdict: Another using grana padano and pecorino cheeses, also adding cashew nuts and marjoram. Spread well, but the flavour was sharp and rather scant. ★★

Tesco Pesto alla Genovese, *£2.75 for 180g jar.*
Claims: "Intensely flavoured basil and lightly flavoured Taggiasca oil." 60.7 per cent fat, of which a high 18.2 per cent is saturates.
Verdict: Looks like bottled mint sauce or tinned spinach, but the flavour is not especially intense, and unless used liberally, rather insignificant. ★½

MORE FOOD & DRINK IN the times magazine

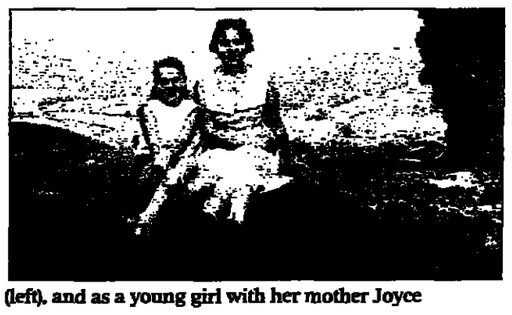
Jonathan Meades tests Harry's Bar Jean-Christophe Novelli makes tarte tatin

The sweet smell of excess

HOME COOKING

Jo Brand's early years were spent happily with her later targets – men





Jo Brand as a child (left), and as a young girl with her mother Joyce

If there's a connection between Jo Brand's childhood and her comedic self-hatred ("Big woman with a sense of humour seeks anyone"), and her man-baiting ("Never trust a man with testicles"), it's not immediately obvious.

Her mother Joyce affectionately remembers the baby she christened *Josephine Grace* Brand as "very even-tempered. She was also exceptionally pretty, perhaps the prettiest baby I've ever seen. She had the most enormous eyes; I'd never seen eyes like them." She interrupts her gushing with an "of course, I'm biased".

But for someone who, later in life, tore into the modern male with such glee, her *childhood was a model of* cross-gender co-operation.

Jo was surrounded by men at the beginning of her life as she was the middle child with an older brother and a younger brother. Her mother recalls that "she was sweet-natured, generous and completely in love with her *older brother. She followed* him around and never had anything given to her without saying 'and one for Billy too'. That was one of her first phrases."

BETNA



Jo Brand has never tried to hide her enjoyment of food

When it came to food her mother found that Jo had "a similar sort of appetite to most young children". Although not a fussy eater there were several things that inspired an early vocalisation of the biting wit for which she is now famous. "The thing that Jo couldn't bear was roast meat, like you have for Sunday lunch. There were two other things that she turned her nose up at. One was gooseberries and the other was parsnips. She still hates parsnips. These days, when we eat together Jo will really enjoy a roast lunch but no one would ever try to give her parsnips."

When it came to favourite foods her mother can remember a particular enthusiasm for *minced beef pie* — "hardly in the cordon bleu category but it was always her favourite".

Circumstances dictated that as she got older Jo had to help in the kitchen. Her mother says: "When she was in her early teens I went to college and then I went to work — until then I'd never worked. Jo was the one most likely to help in the kitchen. Jo was and is a good cook. I think we learn to cook like our parents cook and to eat like our parents eat."

Ms Brand grew up in the Kentish countryside around the village of Benenden. Her mother remembers a lot of her early childhood being spent playing with her brothers outdoors. "That was back in the days when you could let your children loose in the country without worrying. When they were little we had a large garden. There would be eight to ten children playing in it at any time — in expectation that they would have a sandwich, cakes and a glass of lemonade." She remembers the frequent baking that was required to fuel the cake-hungry crowd of kids and little Jo's enthusiasm for the process. "Jo would always enjoy putting the cake mixture into the cake tins. The other thing I remember, which might be frowned on today, was scraping out the cake bowl, the children taking turns to lick the spoon." The title of Jo Brand's Channel 4 television series, *Through The Cakehole*, now makes so much more sense.

JOE WARWICK



هكذا من الإصل

Allotment holders dig in their heels

The grow-your-own tradition is under threat from developers. **Shirley Knight** reports

HULTON GETTY



Grow-your-own is a British tradition but 50 allotment sites have been lost since the last election

As we hurtle towards the millennium, preoccupied by the Dome and its virtual reality, a significant minority of the population has a more down-to-earth worry: the fate of their much loved recreational activity — digging, planting and tending their allotments.

Since May 1997, 50 allotment sites have been lost. According to Geoff Stokes, of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG), this is the average annual loss for the past five years. In February, a delegation representing those concerned about the fate of allotments went to the House of Commons to give their views. And now allotment holders want to know if their plots are safe from the threat of development.

The number of people working allotments has been in decline since the mid-Fifties, but the lack of accurate figures makes it difficult to know precisely what the present situation is. Since the late-Seventies, when local authorities were no longer required to provide information about allotments, returns have not been made, but the report that comes out of the Parliamentary Select Committee hearings should answer some questions. Are we making the best use of our allotments and are they in danger of disappearing?

The NSALG, in a survey published last Christmas, identified 296,000 plots in England, 43,000 vacant plots and 13,000 people on waiting lists. As Mr Stokes points out: "With 78 out of 500 councils sending in nil returns, it is just not clear what the real demand is."

Perhaps an increasingly ageing population will engender more activity in allotments as the retired invest more time in leisure gardening. But from an NSALG sample in 1993, it appears that the over-65s do 35 per cent of the digging, while the 29 per cent in the 35-49 age group and the 30 per cent aged between 50 and 64 do most of the rest of the work. Presumably the small percentage of under-35s have other preoccupations such as establishing jobs and family. Significantly, it seems that there are as many employed as retired people cultivating allotments.

Vacant plots can be the result of vandalism and neglect, or because they are in unsuitable positions — prone to flooding, for instance. But it is not unknown for a council to declare a site surplus to requirements after moving allotment holders elsewhere, against their will, and then applying to dispose of a "derelict site". The NSALG has challenged this approach.

Allotment holders want statutory protection and for local authorities to make a concerted effort to let people know that vacancies exist. Mr Stokes attended both sessions of the recent Parliamentary Select Committee. At the first, he says, "the committee seemed more concerned with alternative use of the land than protecting it for allotments". At the second, "the Local Government Association was fully in support of protection of allotment land". The committee's report is eagerly awaited.

ANDREW LAWSON



Allotment holders want their plots to be safe from development

The 1922 Act relating to allotments says that 12 months' notice needs to be served before a tenant has to leave a plot. "There is," as Mr Stokes argues, "no legal challenge to a 12-month notice to quit."

Alan Rees, chairman of the NSALG, is appalled by the situation. "It takes four to five years to grow a decent allotment and you have a 12-month notice standing over you. It is ridiculous. There is no security of tenure."

Monks House Lane allotment in Spalding, Lincolnshire, is one sector that has recently been identified as an area of council development. While the allotments became vacant and were not re-let, Jim Scarsbrook, administration services manager for South Holland District Council, argues that "times are changing, people do not want allotments".

The only way allotment holders can object to their allotments being developed is to appeal when the land is appropriated. "A reasonable right," Mr Scarsbrook believes.

For the majority who don't have an allotment and don't know anyone who has, the fate of these plots seems unimportant. But just think how many people benefit from them, all the families, friends and charities glad of homegrown fruit and vegetables.

● *The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners is at O'Dell House, Hunters Road, Corby, Northants NN17 5JE, (01536 266576).*

Threat to a fine old tradition

'I'd be lost without my allotment'

PAUL HARRIGAN is a glutton for punishment. By day, he works as head gardener at Belsay Hall, Northumberland. In the evenings and at weekends, he grows his own vegetables in the village of Linton 20 miles away. He has just bought *his third allotment.*

Linton was built as a colliery village. Most people are former miners and now own their own houses, bought from the Coal Board years ago. He and his fellow allotment holders knew that British Coal wanted to sell off the allotments and, rather than pay rent to anyone else, they clubbed together to buy the allotments outright.

His three allotments each measure *about 30 by 20 metres* (the traditional measure was a chain, 22 yards). When he got his first allotment 20 years ago it was covered in concrete pigsty bases. Mr Harrigan kept pigs for a while, but today he grows vegetables, enough to keep family and friends in fresh produce. The rest is down to competition leek growing.

OTHER allotment holders have livestock too. One man has five plots, has built stables, and keeps horses. One woman keeps pigeons, and is down there twice a day cleaning them out.

Times in a colliery village have changed. Local unemployment is *running high. Twenty per cent of* the allotment holders are women. The men are aged between 30 and 80, with "a few youngsters there just to hinder their grandfathers". Mr Harrigan gets there after work and at weekends. It takes up all of his spare time. Some of the younger men without jobs are able to be down there during the day. The "old boys" go in the morning to feed the chickens, chat over the fence, and perhaps return in the afternoon for another session.

Despite gardening for a living, Mr Harrigan finds productive hobby gardening the perfect antidote to professional ornamental gardening. What would he do if he *didn't have an allotment*? "I'd be lost without it. Absolutely lost."

STEPHEN ANDERTON

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The kitchen garden is no longer the preserve of men. Women are taking over, **Barbara Abbs** reports

TESSA TRAEGER



Growing vegetables has been transformed into an art form: armed with the right seed catalogue, you too can have a winter potager full of edible and attractive plants

Queens of the vegetable plot

Nothing in the gardening world, in Britain and abroad, is changing as quickly as vegetable growing. In this country, the vegetable plot has moved from being an exclusively male preserve to become one where women are taking the lead.

Vegetable growing had been decreasing since the last war. After the heroic efforts of the *Dig for Victory* campaign, there was a reaction to those dreary plots of bare earth furnished in the winter with the remains of a row of leeks and a few gaunt Brussels sprouts, and to those books full of sentences such as "Return to the right-hand end of the top trench and stand facing it. Raise the spade (or fork) a foot or so vertically, then jab it into the soil 4in or 5in from the inner edge of the trench." Strictures on the necessity of bastard trenching and rule-straight rows have been replaced by enthusiasm and poetry.

Rosemary Verey's potager at Barnsley House, Susan Campbell's books on kitchen gardens, and Joy Larkcom, who told us how to grow pak-choi, red chicory and Chinese chives in our own gardens, were at the forefront of a movement that has been taken up by other gardeners, designers and writers.

There is now a new magazine devoted to vegetables, called *The Kitchen Garden*, and seed catalogues are burgeoning with the seeds of acorn squash, mizuna and varieties of chilli and aubergine. Worries about herbicides and pesticides on fruit and vegetables bought in supermarkets have had their effect, too.

More and more women with young families are taking over allotments, once almost entirely the preserve of retired men.

The current breed of writers on vegetables, including Sue Stickland with *Heritage Vegetables* and Anna Pavord with *The New Kitchen Garden*, grow plants like black kale or cardoons for their drama, let leeks flower, eat the blossoms from marrow plants and even grow beetroot in *drifts rather than regimented rows.*

Companion planting — for example, growing carrots among flowers or a row of French marigolds by the side of tomatoes — baffles some pests, while a strip of *Limnanthes douglasii*, the poached egg plant, encourages hornets which kill other pests.

Vegetables in your own garden can be *shapely, colourful, chemical-free* and deliciously flavoured.

The doyenne of English vegetable growers, Ms Larkcom has run an experimental market garden in Suffolk for many years. She used to sell her produce to the original Wholefood Shop in London and still supplies local restaurants. In the late Seventies, she travelled around Europe in a caravan for a year with her family, studying old and new methods of vegetable growing, discovering in the process rocket, red lollo and cut-and-come-again salad vegetables. Ten years later, she travelled through China to find out more about oriental vegetables like mustard greens and pak-choi. Her latest book, which encompasses all this and more, is called *Creative Vegetable Gardening*.

Across the Channel, vegetable gardening has never really fallen from favour. About 23 per cent of the fruit and vegetables consumed by the French comes from family plots, and growing them still seems to be a masculine occupation.



Joy Larkcom's petit potager

Celebrating this tradition in *Kitchen Gardens of France* is Louisa Jones, a Canadian art historian who has spent the past 30 years in the Ardèche. She has gardened more or less daily for more than 20 years, and her potager is the centre of her garden. Like Ms Larkcom, Ms Jones has taught, travelled widely and believes passionately in organic gardening.

Ms Jones's scholarly mind and the influence of her adopted country, France, permeate her writing. References to Rousseau, Delacroix and Marcel Pagnol place the potager in a wide cultural context.

She is curious about what people do and why they do it, and is now working on a vegetable cookery book with a French chef, Jean Bardet. Many vegetables were being used in the south of France long before they reached Paris, and then took years more before they arrived in England.

Kitchen Gardens of France doesn't inspire you to get up and do anything but allows you to rejoice that all over France ancient traditions are kept in place and that old-fashioned vegetables and methods of growing them are being preserved. At the same time, chefs and designers, artists and ecologists are creating modern potagers and growing vegetables in new ways. It is wonderful bedtime reading. Her earlier book, *The Art of French Vegetable Gardening*, which Ms Jones describes as a "style and source book", has recipes as well.

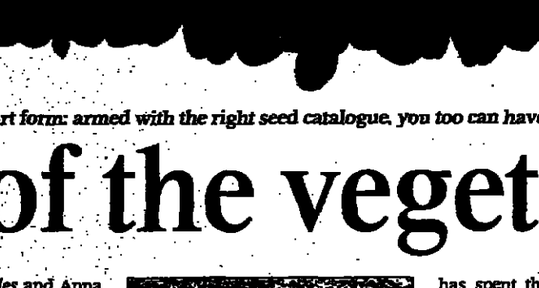
Creative Vegetable Gardening, on the other hand, is guaranteed to destroy sleep. It sets the mind racing with possibilities. You feel the urge to search out seed catalogues to find out if they are offering Bull's Blood oriental bunching onions and purple-leaved mustard. If you go out and buy some seeds tomorrow, you too can have a winter potager, full of edible and attractive plants.

For the summer, a wigwam of ordinary scarlet runners is old hat. Try a mixture of pink, red and white-flowered runners and purple-podded pole beans plus a few sweetpeas for added pleasure.

If you are growing courgettes or edible squash, you can pin the wayward shoots down in a neat circle to produce a compact plant with additional roots.

If the vegetable garden still looks dull, you can add edible flowers, such asnasturtiums, violas, pot marigolds and day lilies. Ideas and suggestions come pouring off every page and possibilities for growing vegetables in even the smallest garden fill your mind.

ANDREW LAWSON



Rosemary Verey's potager at Barnsley House, Gloucestershire

Jean Bardet, whose potager provides herbs and vegetables for his restaurant in Tours, has to have help in the garden. When asked what qualities he looks for in a gardener, he replies "curiosity and poetry".

A willingness to experiment with methods and varieties and a desire to create something aesthetically pleasing, curiosity and poetry are all part of the new vegetables culture. Both Ms Larkcom, with a wonderfully *pragmatic Englishness, and Ms* Jones, with a very French intellectual quality, illustrate it in their different ways.

- Creative Vegetable Gardening *by Joy Larkcom, Mitchell Beazley £19.99.*
- Kitchen Gardens of France *by Louisa Jones. Thames & Hudson, £19.95.*
- The Art of French Vegetable Gardening*by Louisa Jones. Artisan, £25.*

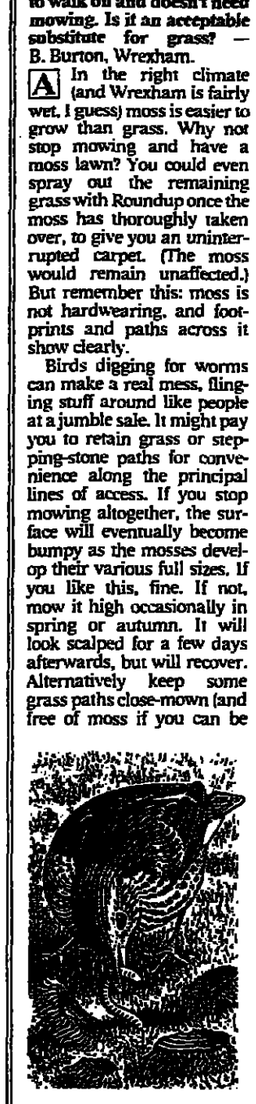


STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

Q For the past 20 years I have tried every trick in the book against moss in my lawn, but it always comes back, bright green and healthy. How would it be if I let nature have its own way and allowed the moss to flourish? It is lovely to walk on and doesn't need mowing. Is it an acceptable substitute for grass? — B. Burton, Wrexham.

A In the right climate (and Wrexham is fairly wet, I guess) moss is easier to grow than grass. Why not stop mowing and have a moss lawn? You could even spray out the remaining grass with Roundup once the moss has thoroughly taken over, to give you an uninterrupted carpet. (The moss would remain unaffected.) But remember this: moss is not hardwearing, and footprints and paths across it show clearly.

Birds digging for worms can make a real mess, flinging stuff around like people at a jumble sale. It might pay you to retain grass or stepping-stone paths for convenience along the principal lines of access. If you stop mowing altogether, the surface will eventually become bumpy as the mosses develop their various full sizes. If you like this, fine. If not, mow it high occasionally in spring or autumn. It will look scalped for a few days afterwards, but will recover. Alternatively keep some grass paths close-mown (and free of moss if you can be



bothered) and let the rest of the grass grow to 4-5in as a low meadow, and be full of flowering daisies, buttercups, and anything else which might arrive.

Q To please a neighbour, I had a major fork of a leaning hornbeam tree on my boundary taken out by a tree surgeon — almost half the tree, in fact. The wound was not painted, as the tree surgeon said it was no longer considered good practice. Several years later it has now developed bracket fungus down that side of the tree. What do I do? I would hate to lose the tree as it filters out fumes from the road and smoke from bonfire fanatics. I seem to have neighbours felling their trees on all sides. — V. Enderby, Southgate, London.

A Your tree surgeon was right. Painting is largely a cosmetic practice. But nor is it best practice to make massive wounds to a tree trunk unless absolutely necessary. Often they lead to major fungal attack. Bracket fungi usually spell the beginning of the end. Maybe you were too accommodating to your neighbour in having the tree cut so hard? Maybe the tree was planted unrealistically and unfairly close to the boundary? You now need to have the tree surgeon back, to advise you on the nature and degree of infection, the long-term safety of the tree, and whether it would be worth reducing the crown to keep it soldiering on a bit longer. It may be cheaper to replant at once.

Q Newly purchased daffodil bulbs properly planted in autumn always give me many flowers the following spring. But even when fed while dying down they sometimes produce only leaves in subsequent years. Why is this, and what can be done to ensure



flowering every year? What is the average life of a daffodil bulb? — K. Jennings, London SE21.

A The most highly-bred, show-bench daffodil varieties do not all naturalise well, and need border soil rather than rough grass to succeed. The paperwhite *Narcissus papyraceus* needs a hot sunny summer baking to make it flower again. But most ordinary daffodils prefer a cool, moist, rich loam soil. When really happy, clumps can remain undisturbed and flowering for several decades.

Deep planting in heavy clay soil could starve and/or rot them. Desperately hot, dry, poor soil can equally stop them flowering. So could insect attack. Your problem may be narcissus bulb fly, whose maggot eats the centre of the bulb. Dig up some clumps now and see if you can tell what is going on.

Q I have a 2ft-high heap of ash where I have been burning garden rubbish for 25 years. Can I distribute it around the garden and, if so, how and where? — A. Paul, Bedford.

A Spread it by all means. You will probably find that the lower part of the heap has turned to soil by now, and may even be full of tree roots which would be better left alone. Ash does



not have a high nutritional value, but every little helps. Just scatter it thinly now over the soil in borders and shrubberies with a shovel, preferably shortly before it rains, so that the dusty particles are quickly washed into the soil.

● *Write to Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. We regret that enclosures cannot be returned.*



■ Check greenhouse plants for colonies of aphids. As the weather warms up they will begin to breed again, clustering on soft shoots and under leaves. Check especially on young cuttings of soft plants such as fuchsias. Spray lightly and early in the day with a suitable insecticide, so that by the cool of evening the plants are dry again. Ventilate greenhouses well on warm sunny days or the temperature will soar.

■ Bulbs of amaryllis supplied at Christmas in 4in pots should be potted on into 6in or 7in pots so that they can be well fed and watered through the summer months and encouraged to perform again well next year. As foliage develops after flowering, the demand for water will increase.

■ Complete preparation of a fine, level tilth on new lawns to be seeded or turfed next month. The soil should be lightly forked and lumps broken up, and the surface raked until the first couple of inches is even, crumbly and ready to take a sowing of seed. Avoid digging deeply unless the ground has been heavily compacted, since deeply dug ground will settle more deeply and unevenly, making the adjustment of final levels to surrounding paths or beds difficult.

■ Overwintered spring cabbages may be dressed with sulphate of ammonia to induce plenty of leaf growth.

■ Apply a balanced fertiliser such as Growmore to bulbs and conifers in troughs and sinks.

■ Established crowns of the larger ferns will benefit from a feed of slow-release fertiliser such as bonemeal and a mulch of leafmould or old compost. It makes a distinct improvement in the size and quality of the fronds. Put the mulch on top of the old fallen fronds. There is no need to remove them first.

هكذا من الأصل

Out with the old, in with the yew

TIM CUFF



Spiral topiary at Parnham



John and Jenny Makepeace stand proudly in their 14-acre labour of love, the finely crafted gardens at Parnham House. From only the remains of some yew hedging, they have constructed a masterpiece

Jane Owen meets bold pioneers in sleepy Dorset

When a 250-year-old sweet chestnut toppled over in the storms of 1987, John Makepeace, OBE for services to furniture design, furniture designer to the well-heeled and teacher of the Queen's nephew, Lord Linley, just happened to be host to the Zhou brothers, the Chicago-based Chinese sculptors.

The resulting sculpture, *Solid Romance*, was placed in the garden of Parnham, Mr Makepeace's 16th-century pile in Dorset, near some elegantly restrained cone-shaped yews, a few hundred yards from where the tree fell.

Not for long. Visitors to Parnham, particularly those who hired the house for weddings, felt that the work of art was, frankly, too phallic.

It was moved to a more discreet position in the 14-acre gardens. The same fate caused larger-than-life size figures of Morecambe and Wise in bright blue fibreglass, flaking slightly, to be removed to Parnham Woods, where beech, specimen conifers, azaleas, camellias and cedar partially obscure the figures.

The tension between old and new dominates much of Mr Makepeace's mission in life: he cultivates young talents in the historic surroundings of 16th-century Parnham. He eggs them on to use old and ancient crafts to make sometimes shockingly new pieces.

Mr Makepeace also expects his protégés to be able to operate as business people and to design with industrial simplicity as well as making the artistic one-offs that demand crafted perfection and prices beyond the wildest dreams of those of us used to Habitat or Heal's furnishings.

The Makepeaces arrived at Parnham in 1976 to find the garden, laid out in a formal style early this century, had been ploughed up during the war. The house had been turned into an old people's home and then left vacant for three years. There was nothing bar some tatty remains of yew hedging and topiary planted at the beginning of the century by Hans Sauer, who restored the house and garden, and some fine beeches, limes and chestnuts planted in the 18th century.

Jenny Makepeace restored 100 metres of mixed border dotted with twig obelisks to support old-fashioned sweet peas. As she and her two gardeners dug to make the beds, they discovered the long herringbone brick path which now spans the Italian garden, but there was little else, and much of the yew had to be replanted.

Even in the dead of winter the border has interest: hellebores, euphorbias, specialist grasses and a touch of classic Rosemary Verey style — she is a friend.

The only area not directly influenced by the Makepeaces is a courtyard designed by Chelsea gold winner Paul Cooper around a curious Portland stone sculpture by John Maine. An angled oval pavement under the sculpture with the surrounding beds in evergreys and evergreens helps the walls of the old house to seem at one with the sculpture.

Gardens at the front of the house, which has echoes of nearby Montacute, have regular lines of cone-shaped yews, two of the lines making an alley flanked by two wide rills leading down from the house. These become staircase waterfalls on either side of the steps leading down to a long lawn, which in turn leads to a balustraded lake and the River Brit beyond.

Mr Makepeace sticks to tree planting and comes into the garden only to check on his beloved trees: limes, beeches, cherries and crab apple, and a dragon hedge of beech. He plants for the love of trees, not for the wood, which will never be mature enough in his lifetime to be workable.

And, as he points out, he and the 22 students at Parnham use relatively little wood in their labour-intensive commissions: a 20-metre table for the Metropolitan Museum in New York; a bedroom for the royal train; public seating for the National Gallery.

Students pay £13,500 a year to learn how to transform indigenous hardwoods. Sycamore, oak, ash, yew, holly and a vast lump of Turkish oak sit in the garden waiting to be chiselled into works of art.

A few miles away, at Hooke Park, Mr Makepeace has started another project, still part of the Parnham Trust which governs his school and house. Hooke Park College is investigating how woodland thinnings — the young trees ripped out to allow the remaining trees to grow straight and strong — can be used instead of burnt. One of the uses being pioneered by Mr Makepeace is in building. Naturally, the workshop at Hooke is made from thinnings. Inside the workshop, sweeping curved beams give the impression of being in a vast upturned boat.

Anyone with their own thinnings surplus or even a surplus of more substantial trees knocked for six by gales, should resist the temptation to send them to Parnham. The only wood in which Mr Makepeace might, just possibly, show some interest is mulberry.

● *For visits and more information about the Parnham Trust call 01308 863494.*

ME AND MY GARDEN: JOHN MAKEPEACE

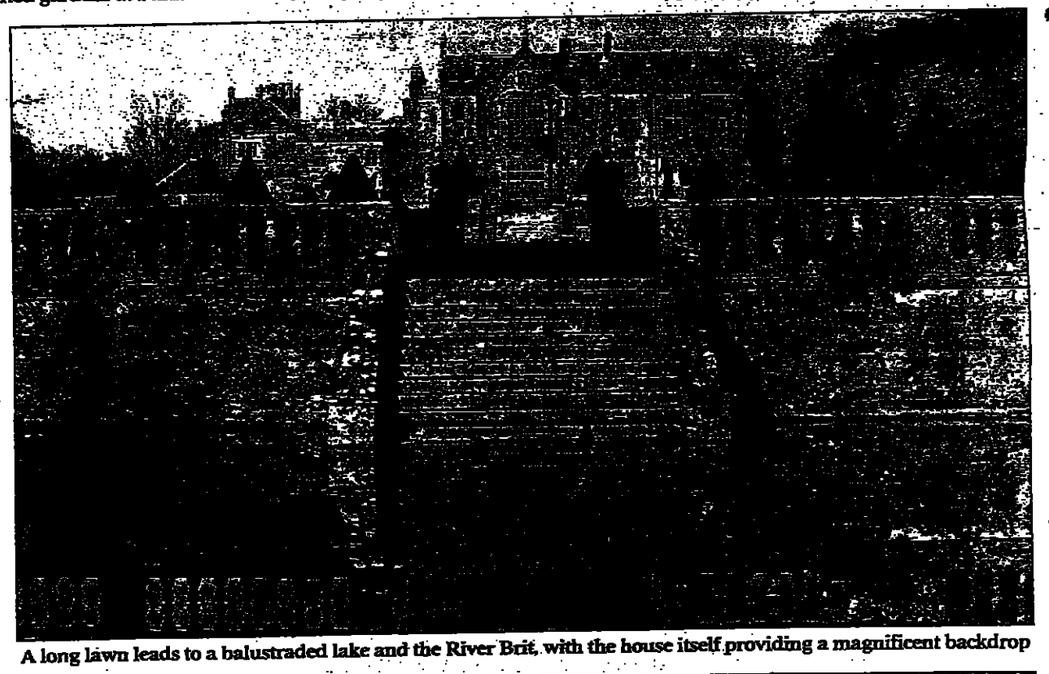


Winter hiatus is over for the fountains

'In 1976, there were only tatty remains of yew hedging'



Gazebo amid the greenery



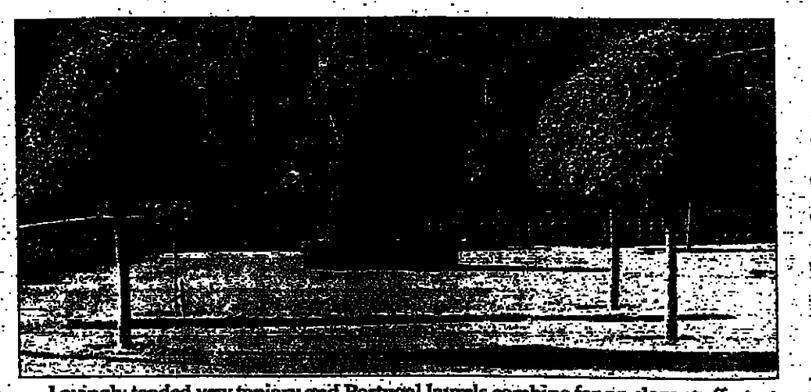
A long lawn leads to a balustraded lake and the River Brit, with the house itself providing a magnificent backdrop



Controversial sculpture: *Solid Romance* at the perimeter



Blue-hued Eric and Ernie were banished to the woods



Lovingly tended yew topiary and Portugal laurels combine for an elegant effect

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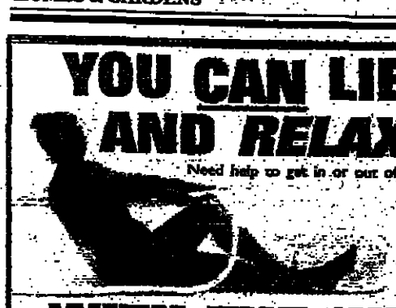
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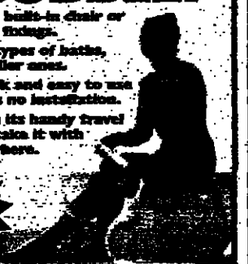
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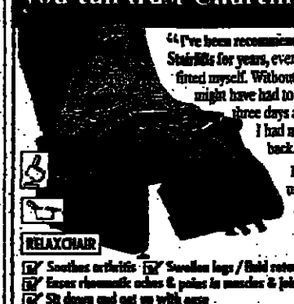
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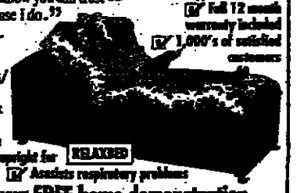
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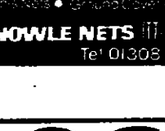
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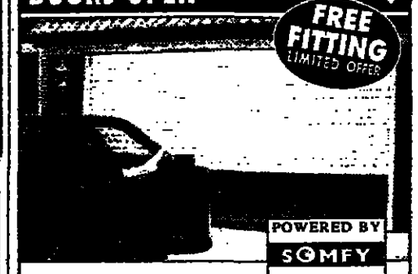
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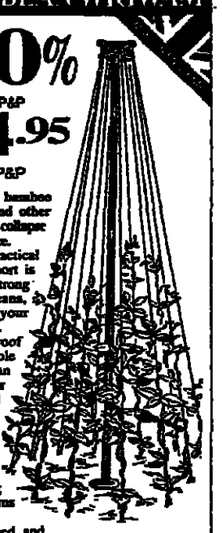
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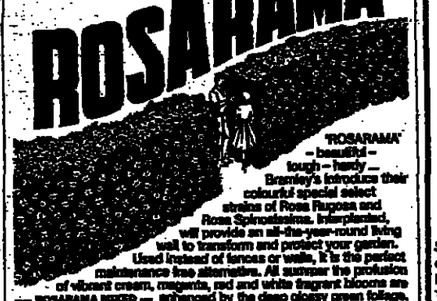
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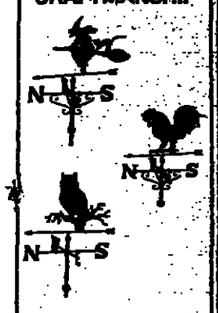
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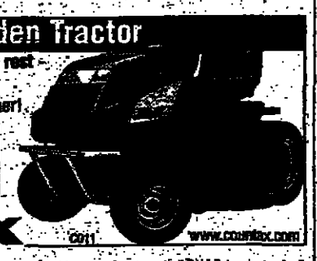
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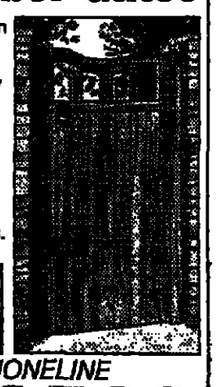
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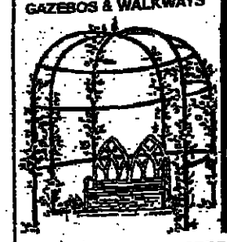
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After a crushing first encounter, **Damian Whitworth** braves another put-down to talk house with Emily Lloyd

Tea and chaos in Notting Hill

ROBIN MAYES



Emily Lloyd poses theatrically in front of her cluttered fireplace amid the chaos of her paper and book-strewn living room

FLAT OF THE **WEEK**

Emily Lloyd's most famous movie line came in *Wish You Were Here* when the nymphet-with-attitude she portrayed emitted a cry of "up yer bum" to some pathetic male. In real life, Ms Lloyd is similarly the mistress of the uncompromising put-down. She once burst through the doors of a party with her girlfriends and declared: "Right, where are the men?" A misguided youth protested, clumsily, that *she* couldn't possibly need to search for men. She fixed him with a retina-torching stare and flashed back: "You looked quite intelligent until you opened your mouth."

That misguided youth was me and the memory of my embarrassment, and the subsequent delight of my companions, ensured that Ms Lloyd's Notting Hill front door was approached with some trepidation this week. I needn't have worried. It was opened not by a terrifying harpy but an American male who said that Ms Lloyd had other things to do and wasn't available to show *The Times* her flat. My disgruntlement at a wasted journey was tempered with a touch of relief.

The appointment was rescheduled for later in the week, at 9am. This time a female croaked down the intercom in the confused manner of one who, four seconds earlier, had been sound asleep and not expecting us. She didn't tell the photographer and I to clear off and we were buzzed up.

It is not a big flat. In the hall it was clear at once that there would hardly be room to swing a catty actress. But Ms Lloyd was not catty at all. She was slightly put out at first — "I'm sure it was Thursday" — but then ushered us in, with her mad hair, and fussed around in leggings and T-shirt making tea and wishing she had tidied up.

This would have been a major undertaking. Bags of clothes stood in corners. Every surface was covered in photographs, sunglasses, hairdryers, a humidor stuffed with Cuban cigars. In the living room there was a suitcase on the floor bulging with papers, towers of videos and cassettes and stacks of books. Among the clutter on the mantelpiece above the fine tiled fireplace stood a certificate from a Hollywood film directing course and Christmas cards. "That's a bit pathetic isn't it?" said Ms Lloyd, tucking away the latter. A TV bigger than the screen in some West End cinemas was perched on a crate, still partially clad in its cardboard box.

"It's the archetypal perfect batchelor-ette flat," explained Ms Lloyd. Although she found stardom in *Wish You Were Here* more than ten years ago and went on to a mixed bag of movie roles, she only bought this one-bedroom, second-floor flat three years ago. Before that she had divided her time between Los Angeles and London.

Like all good-time bachelor boys and girls, Ms Lloyd has not made DIY a priority. The walls are not shabby but a new owner would want to redecorate. The floorboards have been stripped and stained, but not by Ms Lloyd. "But I did strip the doors," she said gamely.

The rooms have 12ft ceilings and sash windows, and the large living room and long, thin bedroom lined with pine wardrobes, look out on to the quiet street.

The kitchen, which is fitted but not exactly state-of-the art, has a less prepossessing view over low rooftops towards Notting Hill Gate. The bathroom is in the middle of the flat, so it would be no good for those who would rather have a window.

Ms Lloyd is looking for somewhere else in the area. "I do need to earn some money," she admitted. "This is the first place I have bought so I am fond of it. I'm quite happy here. I like the area." All the restaurants, bars and shops a 27-year-old single woman could need are within a few minutes' walk. She has even performed at the Gate Theatre around the corner.

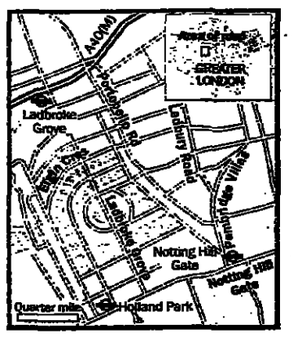
"It's, like, really trendy here isn't it?" she said and then disappeared to get dressed and do something about her personal dishevelment. Cheerful singing drifted from the bedroom and she emerged in a sort of velvet smoking jacket and jeans to pose for photographs amid her clutter. If the vibes of a house remain after a previous owner has departed, the atmosphere in Ms Lloyd's apartment may be a little confused, but it should be a happy place.

By the time I left we were perfectly chummy. I didn't refer to the party incident, for fear that she would get scary again.

● *Ms Lloyd's flat is on the market for £187,500 through Anscombe & Ringland (0171-727 7227).*



The "batchelorette" flat is for sale for £187,500



MARKET COMMENT

FEW DISTRICTS have seen such a reversal of fortune as Notting Hill. Within the past three to four years it has metamorphosed from a colourful but somewhat frayed corner of London to the happening haunt of the young film/media/music set, and those who aspire to join its ranks.

There is also a large concentration of so-called "trustafarians" whose homes are bought through their family trust fund: Rupert Fisher of Foxtons' Notting Hill branch estimates that trusts account for about one in 20 deals.

Connections are impressive: the West End is a 15-minute ride on the Central, District or Circle tube lines, while those driving west can practically fall on to the M40 at the north end of Ladbroke Road, or drive a couple of miles to Hammersmith and the M4.

On the spot, numerous funky restaurants and bars line Portobello Road, Westbourne Grove and Ledbury Road, while Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park are only a brisk jog away.

The area's housing stock is diverse: there remains a lot of council and ex-council property, as well as the big stucco-fronted houses (mostly converted) which back on to the beautiful communal gardens of Ladbroke Square, Lansdowne Road, Arundel Gardens and Elgin Crescent.

As a consequence of this broad cross-section, a one-bedroom flat could cost from £80,000 to £300,000, while a top-quality apartment of 1,500 sq ft, with garden access, could fetch £700,000.

FAITH GLASGOW

SMART MOVES



THE former house of Tina Turner (above) in Stanley Gardens, Notting Hill, west London, is on sale through Chestertons for around £2.5 million. The white stucco house, which backs on to communal gardens, has been lived in by a private family since Ms Turner sold up a decade ago. But the Portobello hotel, beloved of Liam Gallagher and Kate Moss, is in the same street.

THE six-bedroom Grade II listed home of the late broadcaster and film critic Peter Noble has been sold by Cluttons Daniel Smith for £755,000 to an overseas buyer. The house is a short walk from the zebra crossing where the Beatles were photographed for the cover of their *Abbey Road* album. The new owner has plans to renovate the four-storey detached Gothic villa.

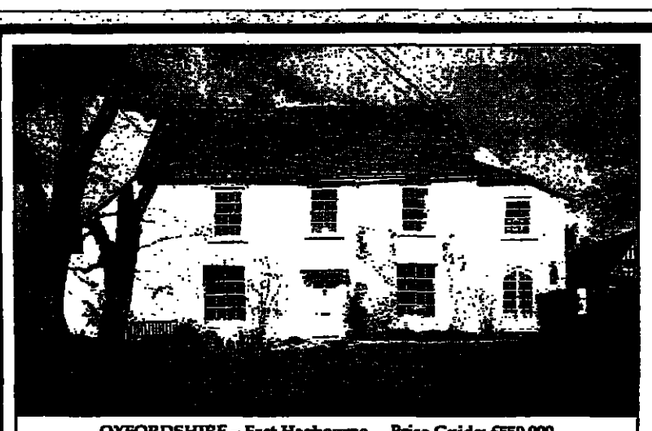


THE former chief designer for the Williams Formula 1 racing team (above), Adrian Newey is moving out of his £795,000 village house in Fyfield, near Oxford. In the six years up to 1997 his cars won five constructors' and three drivers' titles and 51 grand prix. Since August 1997, Mr Newey has been working for Maclaren.

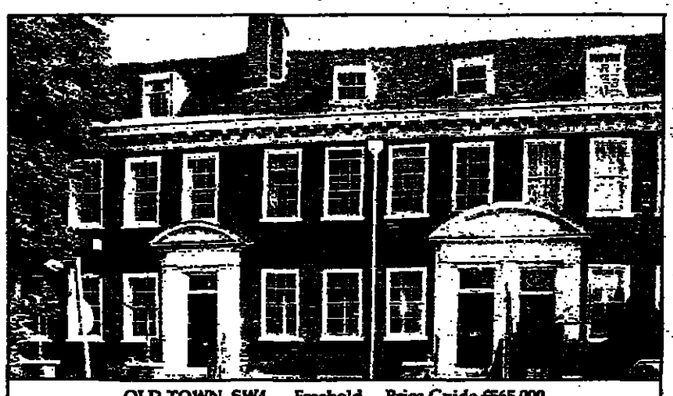
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OXFORDSHIRE – East Hagbourne Price Guide: £550,000
A Grade II listed former Vicarage with an adjoining cottage, circa 16th century, set in about 0.6 acres of partly walled gardens. 5/6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, attic room, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom, two bedroom cottage, garaging and stable/store.
OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522



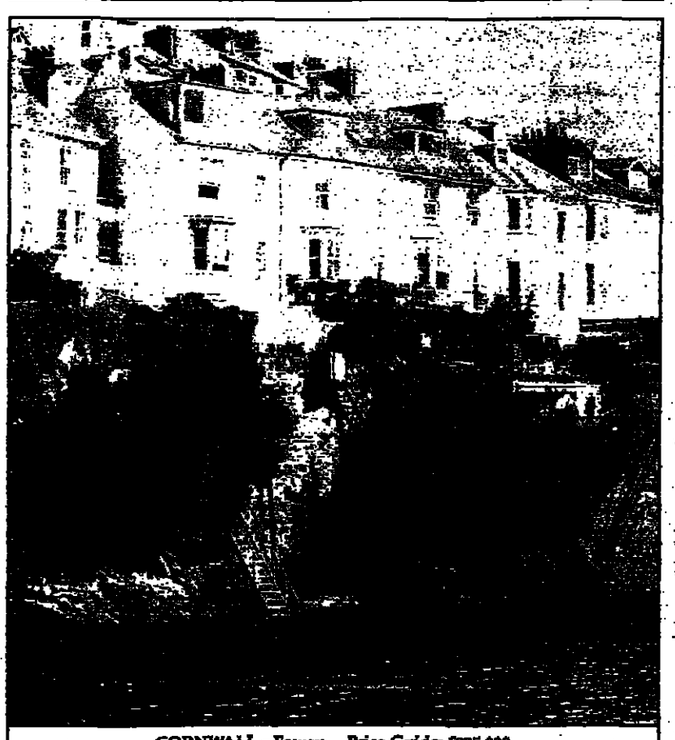
OLD TOWN, SW4. Freehold Price Guide £565,000
A house of immense architectural and historic interest, circa 1704, requiring modernisation in a convenient location for local amenities. 4 bedrooms, bathroom (potential 2nd bathroom), 2 reception rooms, potential kitchen, kitchenette, utility room, 2 cloakrooms and garden.
BATTERSEA OFFICE: 0171 228 0174



ADDISON ROAD, W14. Freehold Price Guide £5,950,000
A beautifully refurbished and fitted house of 599.7 sq m (6,455 sq ft) with an 'in and out' drive and a south-facing garden of 32.65m x 18m (107' x 60'). 5/6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4/5 reception rooms, staff bedroom and shower room, garage and off-street parking.
KENSINGTON OFFICE: 0171 727 0705



ALBERT BRIDGE ROAD, SW11. Freehold Price Guide £1,200,000
With wonderful views over Battersea Park and close to Chelsea, an elegant house with a separate flat and a west-facing garden. 5/6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, bedroom 6/dressing room/shower room, 3 reception rooms and kitchen/conservatory.
BATTERSEA OFFICE: 0171 228 0174



CORNWALL – Fowey Price Guide: £325,000
A fine Grade II listed, four storey house with direct water frontage and views over the harbour. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, 2 reception rooms, hall, laundry/cloakroom, garage, garden, terrace and steps to water with trape mooring (subject to harbour master's consent).
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ST JAMES'S PLACE, SW1. Freehold £1,200,000
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MAYFAIR OFFICE: 0171 408 0055



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OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522



OXFORDSHIRE – Witney Price Guide: £665,000
An imposing Victorian house with extensive, flexible accommodation offering alternative uses (subject to planning). 14 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, shower rm, 4 reception rms, potential 2 bedroom annexe, tennis court, garage, parking and gardens. About 0.49 ha (1.20 acres).
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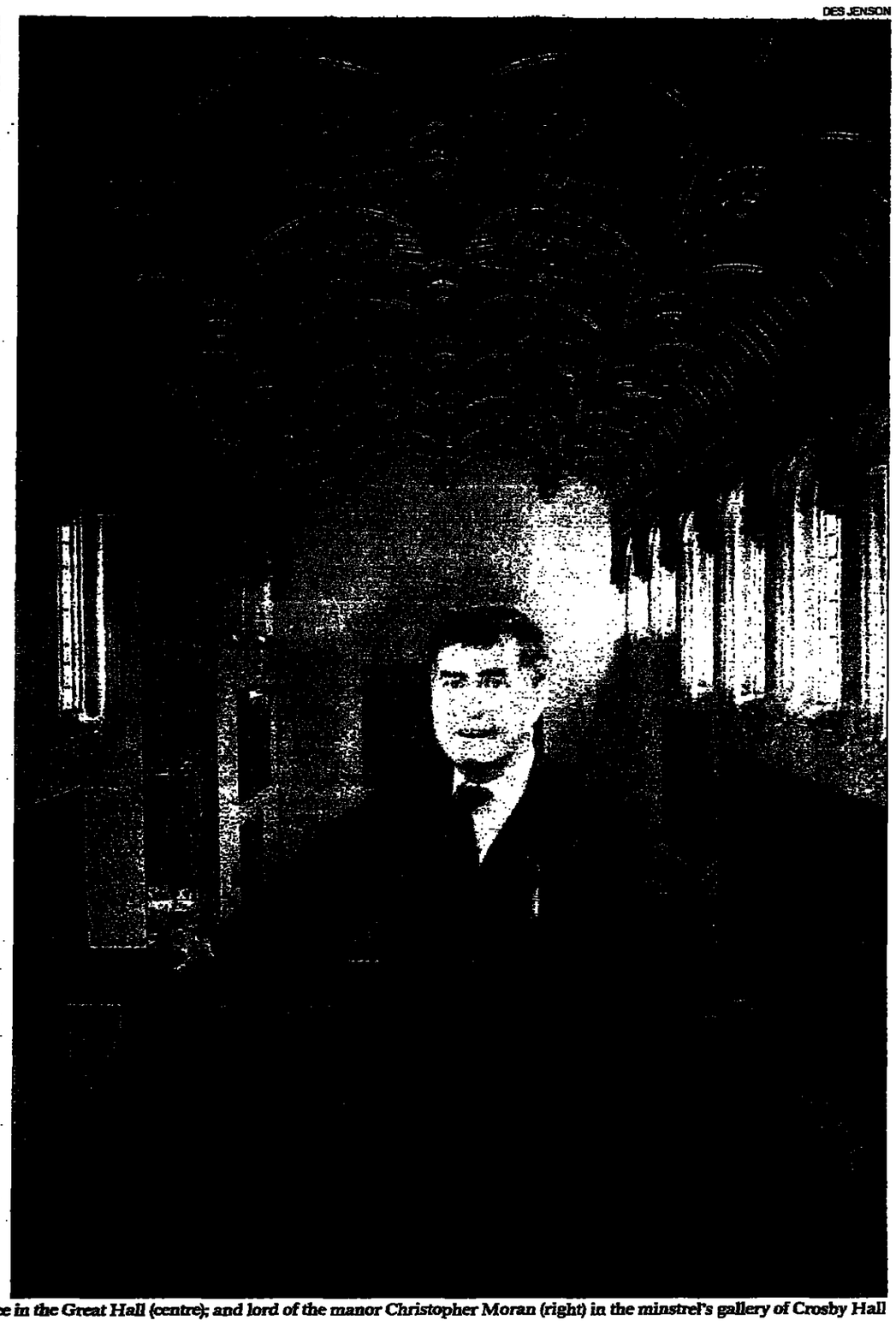
The distinctive Moran motto is everywhere. But the final bill for restorations is expected to top £40 million

Carving out his name in stone

Insurance magnate Christopher Moran gives **Rachel Kelly** the first guided tour of his newly built Thameside 'palace', Crosby Hall







DES JENSON

The weathervane reaches into the sky for all to see (left); the impressive marble fireplace in the Great Hall (centre); and lord of the manor Christopher Moran (right) in the minstrel's gallery of Crosby Hall

Christopher John Moran is determined to leave his mark — literally. Adorning the brickwork, decorating the drain pipes and carved in the leading of this insurance magnate's newly built palace on the Thames are his initials, CJM.

The Moran standard in white, gold and blue will shortly fly next to the Union Jack on Crosby Hall's turreted roofs and gold cupolas. The Moran arms will decorate an enormous stained glass window alongside those of previous inhabitants Richard III and Sir Thomas More.

His motto, *Meritum, Pertinacia, Fortitudo et Fideli* (Merit, Determination, Courage and Loyalty), is carved in the stone wall of a terrace running the length of the hall.

Mr Moran even plans to consecrate the basement and create a family mausoleum. The boy from north London who sold cigarettes to his schoolfriends has done good and here are the bricks and mortar to prove it.

But Mr Moran has done well in controversial financial circumstances. He made his money at Lloyd's insurance market in the 1970s, but was expelled as a broker from Lloyd's in 1982 for "discreditable conduct", the first expulsion for 300 years.

We are coming to the end of the first guided tour of the building since they finished work on its exterior. There are architectural details to come including stone finials, statues and stained-glass windows and a courtyard garden to be laid by Lady Salisbury of Hatfield House. But the basic quandrangle, of which the original 15th-century Crosby Hall forms one side, is now complete. Work on the lavish interiors will take years to complete.

Standing on the roof of the newly finished quad, as he surveys the Thames and discusses the possibility of diverting the traffic along the Embankment that thunders past, it is hard not to accuse this diminutive tycoon of hubris. He bridles. "People say it's ego, but all Tudor houses were built like this."

And, he adds, seemingly unaware of the dangers of comparing himself to a former Lord Chancellor: "Look at Hampton Court; there are all those Ws for Wolsey."

Hubris is among the least of the accusations that have been levelled at Mr Moran. The latest spat concerns architects Carden and Godfrey, which Mr Moran employed to transform Crosby Hall at a cost of an estimated £25 million.

No one reliably knows the cost of the hall, just as it has proved impossible to calculate Mr Moran's own wealth — estimates range from £25 million to £200 million.

One of Mr Moran's conversational habits is to throw around huge numbers. He talks about what the house might be worth if he were to sell one day to the Sultan of Brunei — for £100 million.

But he promises that in the next decade he will transfer its ownership to a charitable trust to be left to the nation.

The final bill is expected to top £40 million. But Mr Moran says: "It is very difficult to know exactly how much it will ultimately cost. We aim to produce something of the highest standard, and around 70 or 80 people are working on the project."

Carden and Godfrey is known for recreating historical buildings and it worked on the original transfer of Crosby Hall from an earlier site in the City. The firm is suing Mr Moran for work which it claims has not yet been paid for. Mr Moran, in the meantime, is preparing a counter-claim against the architects.

Russell Taylor, from Carden and Godfrey, says it is owed around £100,000 for work done. Through his solicitors, Memery Crystal, Mr Moran is countersuing the architects, arguing that some of the architect's work is not in accordance with the plans for the house.

They have been preparing a counter-claim in relation to what they consider is the cost of urgent remedial work and say the work will cost hundreds of thousands of pounds to put right, a view rejected by the architects.

The disputed work centres on the gradient of the terrace of the riverside house in Chelsea. Mr Moran says it is too steep and will have to be replaced. The architects say their design is not faulty.

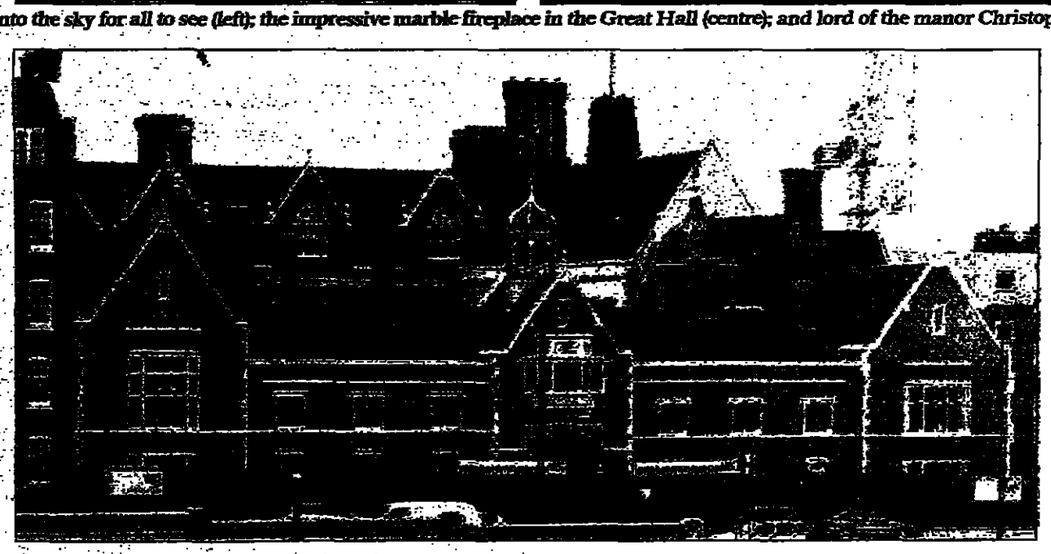
Disputes have not just been about unpaid bills. Others have criticised the building's architectural style, saying that it is merely top-quality pastiche. "There is a lot of jealousy and envy about," says Mr Moran.

In his defence, he called on the views of conservationists such as Simon Thurley, the curator of the Museum of London and former curator of the Historic Royal Palaces, and architectural historians such as Mark Girouard. They have lauded Mr Moran's efforts. Mr Thurley says: "The building shows that pastiche can be as valid as modern design if done really well."

There have also been rows with the neighbours. Some locals have objected through Kensington and Chelsea Council about the height of the west wing, which they say creates too much of a sense of enclosure and cuts off views.

Mr Moran's aim, he says, is to put Crosby Hall back into context. The original 15th-century hall was surrounded by modern blocks when he bought the property in 1988.

Mr Moran has surrounded it with more appropriate Tudor-style buildings. "It is a project I have dedicated my life to," he says.





Christopher John Moran plans to be remembered. His initials even appear in the brickwork (above). Making its presence clearly felt, 15th-century Crosby Hall as seen from Chelsea Bridge (left)

The hall, once home to Richard III and Sir Thomas More, was originally built in Bishopsgate in 1466. The listed Grade II* medieval building has stunning carved Tudor ceilings.

The relationship between Carden and Godfrey and Crosby Hall stretches back more than 80 years. In 1910, Walter Godfrey moved the house stone by stone from Bishopsgate to Cheyne Walk, close to More's church, to save it from demolition. Mr Godfrey added on a building in the Tudor style on one side to serve as a university residence, but was never able to finish the quad.

Owned by the GLC, the hall was until recently occupied under a 500-year lease by the Federation of University Women.

Mr Moran bought the freehold from the London Residuary Body for £100,000 in 1988 and eventually negotiated an agreement with the university tenants, who moved out after litigation against them to comply with the terms of the lease.

The courtyard is now bounded by the 15th-century stone Crosby Hall and on the other three sides by new brick buildings based on Hampton Court and Tudor country houses. The combination makes the building seem to have evolved over 150 years.

When the building is finished, Mr Moran will live in the 30-room house with his wife Helen and his twin eight-year-old sons, Charles and Jamie.

His one concession to modernity is an indoor swimming pool in the basement. The family already enjoys the use of the 47,000-acre Glenfiddich estate in Grampian.

We return to the Great Hall and gaze up at the gilded Tudor roof, as once Sir Thomas More must have. Mr Moran says he is unfazed by the criticism he and his building projects have engendered.

"I often think of Sir Thomas. He is a guiding light. He, too, had all sorts of gatherings in his hall, of doers, as opposed to those who criticise them. Ultimately, history will judge me in 500 years' time. That is what matters."

Adam Barnard finds pastiche architecture scorned as frequently as it is applauded

Mockery or tribute?

ANDY WATTS



Three ships contributed to Liberty's mock-Tudor building, including the *Mayflower*

PASTICHE architecture, such as that of Christopher Moran's Thameside palace, Crosby Hall, inevitably attracts mixed feelings. While some will applaud homage to a bygone age, others see fit to mock the mock-Tudor.

It is obviously a touchy subject. A spokesman for the Royal Institute of British Architects says only: "We have to be careful what we say. Some of our members are doing it."

Mock-Tudor designs are not a new thing. In 1920, architect brothers Edwin and Stanley Hall set about constructing a similarly elaborate building in Regent Street.

Department store Liberty's "Tudor" building was constructed from two men-of-war ships, the *HMS Hindustan* and the *HMS Impregnable*, with a weathervane made from the *Mayflower*, in which the Pilgrim Fathers set sail in 1620.

Quinlan Terry is the leading figure in the country's classical revival. His work includes the Richmond Riverside development and three state rooms in 10 Downing Street among his clients is Michael Heseltine.

Mr Terry says he was asked to give evidence in the Moran case, but refused to become involved. "Crosby Hall is not quite my style. What I'm really interested in is doing classical buildings properly."

Modernist architects, such as Sir Richard Rogers, will argue that "pastiche is mere mimicry". But Mr Terry says architecture has a tradition of revival. "The Romans thought their style was in imitation of the Greek one. Every classical revival is rooted in its own period, as opposed to the past. The sad fact is that it is not done well any more."

A favourite of the Prince of Wales, Mr Terry's other work includes the building in Regent's Park in the style of a Gothic villa, an extension of Downing College, Cambridge, and a new cathedral at Brentwood, Essex.

Like the Prince, Mr Terry has little time for *modernism*. "Modern architecture is the absence of style," he says.

Mr Terry is in good, and plentiful, company. Other British exponents of neo-classicism include Robert Adam (not to be confused with the 18th-century Scottish architect of the same name, who is in turn imitated by contemporary architect Julian Bicknell), who last year designed the £9 million Sackler library at Oxford University; Demetri Porphyrios; James Gorst and John Simpson.

Architecture, Mr Terry adds, is like food. "A lot of us want meals based on food we've eaten before. The word 'pastiche' itself means a mixture of different sorts of food."

Robert Adam says: "I think that architecture drawing on classical influences is just as valid as any other style. People expect architects to be able to suddenly create from nothing a style which defines the present age. This is absurd: everything, ultimately, is derivative."



The courtyard, to be laid with a garden by Lady Salisbury, with the Thames behind

هكذا من الأصل

On the road to nowhere

Labour's freeze of new road schemes has not helped blighted homeowners. Emma Haughton investigates

The U-turn in Government policy and public opinion over the building of new roads is something of a double-edged sword for homeowners affected by the 150 road schemes currently under review. While some may eventually be spared the trauma of the noise and pollution, for most it simply prolongs the period of blight and uncertainty.

According to Steven Hinton, a surveyor specialising in compensation, road blight is a large problem: he estimates that it afflicts £20 million worth of houses in the West Midlands alone, and some £150 million worth nationally. "It can affect people for up to a mile around and have a drastic effect on property prices," he says. "The more expensive the property, the more sensitive it is to changes in value, particularly in scenic areas where the value is largely due to its position."

For the past 30 years, Raymond and Anne Batchelor have lived with the legacy of road blight. Traffic on the six-lane M42, built in the mid-1980s, thunders past just 60ft away from the garden surrounding their 350-year-old cottage in Curdworth village, ten miles from Birmingham city centre. But there is worse to come — they now face proposals to widen the motorway to 14 lanes as part of the Birmingham Northern relief road.

NEWSTEAM



For the past 30 years, Raymond and Anne Batchelor have lived with the legacy of road blight. Traffic on six-lane M42 (below) thunders past just 60ft away from the garden surrounding their 350-year-old cottage (above) in Curdworth village, near Birmingham

If the scheme goes ahead, the Batchelors will not qualify for further compensation, although noise levels from the road already reach vacuum cleaner levels at peak times. "We're in a terrible position," Mrs Batchelor says. "We've already had the M42 put through and stuck that out, but there's still no compulsion for the Government to buy us out.

"Cottages like these are worth their weight in gold. If we were to try to get another one like this away from the road it would cost us £200,000, but we're not going to get anywhere near that for ours. There is nothing we can do."

As the Batchelors have found, only a minority can expect adequate compensation. Statutory blight, where the Government buys up the house, only covers loss of land or instances where the road has an obviously devastating effect on a property. Those further afield can apply for discretionary blight, and may get a percentage of the property value, but help is not guaranteed.



One Cheshire family has been particularly hard hit. Their large converted farmhouse, set in five acres of land just south of Manchester, is adjacent to the proposed A55/56M link road between M6 and M5, currently under review by the Government. "It has made any property within a mile or so of the motorway virtually unsaleable," says the owner. "The blight has affected a lot of people severely. Many have tried to sell their houses, only to find the surveyor or solicitor instructs the purchasers not to buy it."

Although they live just 200 yards from the planned route, the family will get no Government compensation for their £600,000-£700,000 property. Nor have they much hope of selling it at anywhere near its full market value, with most people in the area having to reduce their price by 30 per cent or more. "But it's not just the money, it's the uncertainty that makes life so difficult. A lot of people need or want to do things to their property, but don't know if it's worth it or whether they're just throwing money down the drain."

> 'It's not just the money, it's the uncertainty. People want to do things to their property, but don't know if it's worth it or whether they're just throwing money away'

Even where a road scheme seems to have ground to a halt, the agony can last years. In Dorset, the decade-old scheme to bypass the villages of Chideock and Morcombelake has now been shelved, but residents are still waiting for the final revocation order cancelling the road's planned line.

Sadly, even if the Government does drop many of the proposed roads, it may not bring peace of mind to homeowners.

"Unfortunately blight can linger," says Mr Hinton. "It's never completely removed because there is always the fear that a road may come back again, and you certainly won't get full market value if there's even a remote possibility of a scheme in your area."

HOME SWAP

RICHMOND, with its riverfront, palaces and rolling parkland, is just eight miles southwest of London, 13 minutes from Waterloo by fast train, and draws commuters and international buyers. You might pick up a studio flat in the centre of town for £80,000, but at the top of Richmond Hill gracious 18th- and 19th-century houses, with views over the Thames, can cost up to £2 million, according to estate agent GA Town & Country.

Londoners looking for second and retirement homes are pushing up prices around Peasmarsh, a village three miles from the Cinque Port town of Rye, East Sussex, where Paul McCartney has a home. Prices start at £65,000 for a two-bedroom 18th-century cottage; from £100,000 for a three-bedroom detached village house. A country house with three acres might fetch £325,000; or £700,000 for a 12-bedroom house in 75 acres.

Buyers priced out of Cambridgeshire are looking north to Lincolnshire, where prices are 25 per cent lower. Around Sleaford, about 30 minutes' drive from Grantham station, an hour from Kings Cross by fast train, you can buy a five-bedroom country house for modernisation for less than £150,000, or a two-up, two-down village house from £40,000.



This one-bedroom lower-ground-floor flat in Church Road, on the upper slopes of Richmond Hill, Surrey, will set you back £105,000 (GA Town & Country, 0181-940 7155).



For even less, you can buy Clonmell, a detached Grade II listed three-bedroom village cottage in Peasmarsh, near Rye, East Sussex. (Phillips & Stubbs, 01797 227338).



A similar style property, a Victorian red-brick and stone period farmhouse in Ruskington, near Sleaford, Lincolnshire. The property has six bedrooms, three reception rooms and two bathrooms (Brown & Co, 01522 [illegible]).

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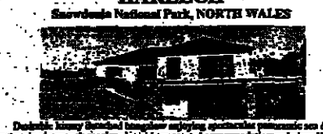
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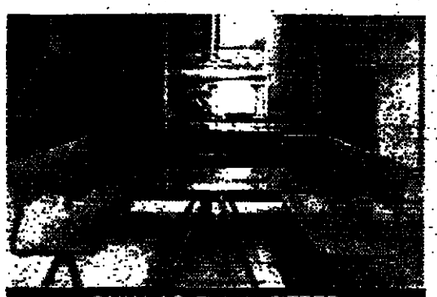
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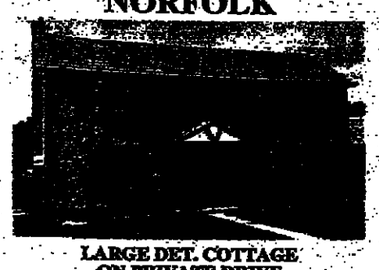
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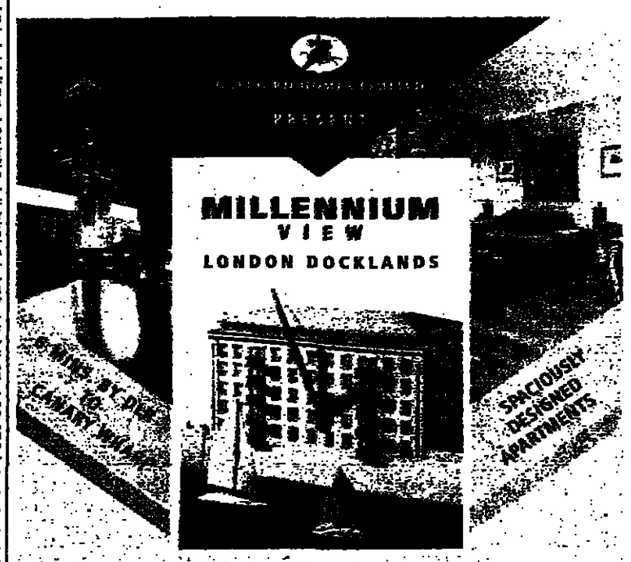
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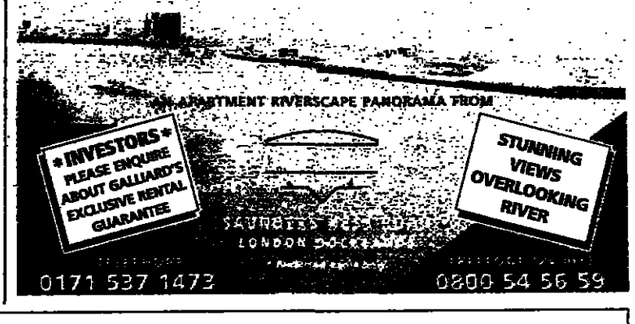


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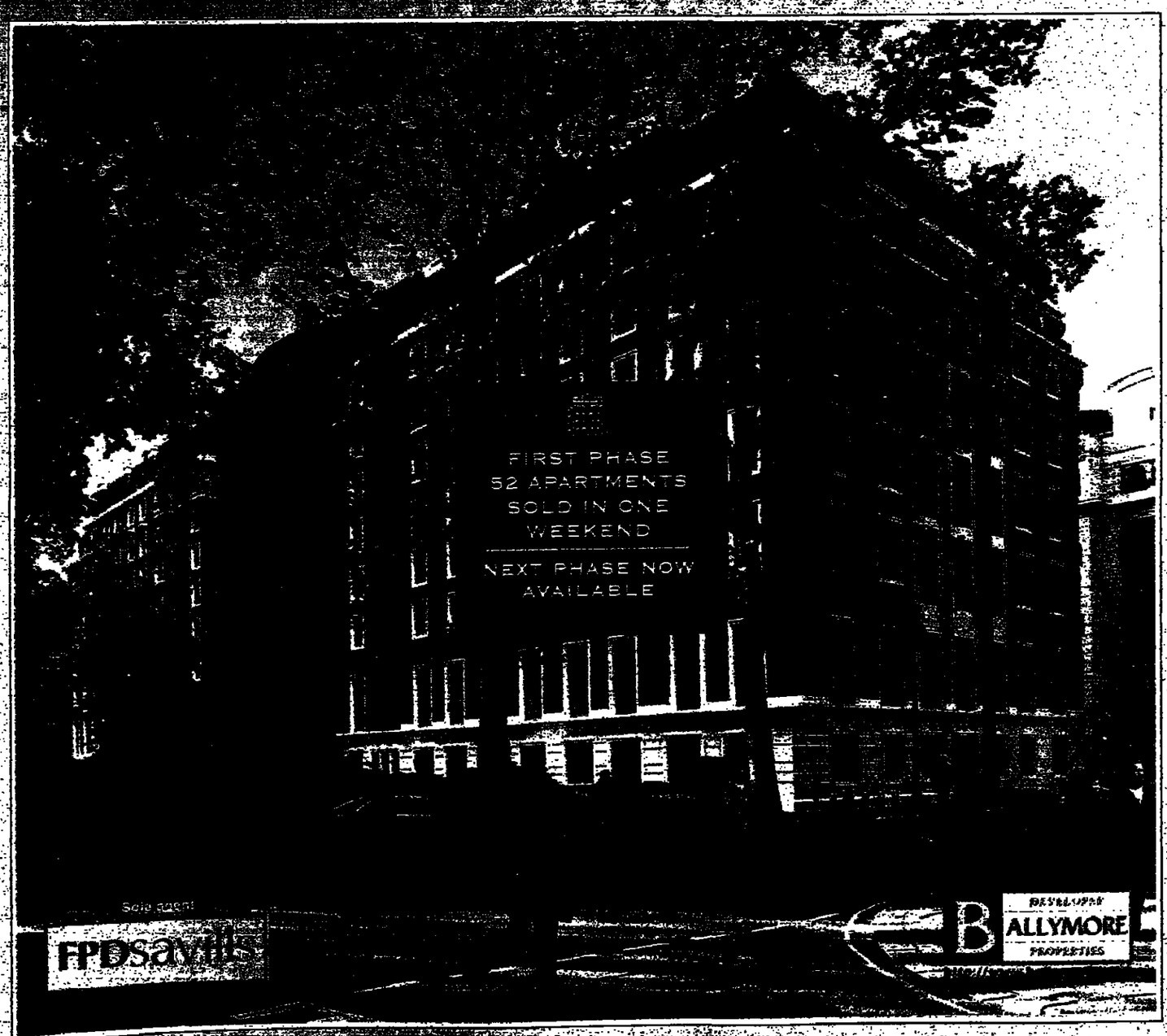
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'Judas lambs have been used for centuries — and it would be hard to come up with a more perfect example of deceitful behaviour'

Animals with more brain than brawn

DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

This week, scientists at Bristol University revealed that they intended to spend £200,000 on a series of experiments to assess the intelligence of the domestic pig. I find this news puzzling. I can't understand why the scientists are concentrating on pigs, rather than other farm animals — and I can't see why they don't save money by questioning farmers, who, after all, have been studying the intellectual capacity of animals for 9,000 years.

Maybe I'm prejudiced because I live on a horse farm, but I would have thought that cart horses would make much better subjects for an investigation into the limits of animal intelligence — simply because they are regularly called on to do far more complex jobs than pigs ever are.

The cleverest thing that I ever heard of a horse doing happened on a farm in northern France run by an Ardennes breeder called Cecile Blaise. In order to harvest sugar beet efficiently she'd trained half a dozen of her horses to carry full carts from the field down to the beet clamp at the farmhouse, and then return to get them filled up again. Initially, she and her employees drove the horses to teach them the route, but after a few years the animals learnt to do the work unsupervised.

This was clever in itself, but there was an added refinement to the task. Because the paved road the horses travelled along was so narrow, if they met each other head-on, one was forced to give way to another. Ms Blaise had assumed that the dominant horses in the herd would automatically take precedence, but she was astonished to discover that even when they were on their own, and completely out of the control of humans, the horses would apply human logic — and give right of way to whichever animal had a full, heavy cart, which would be hard to pull through the mud.

When I told this story to the dairy farmer who lives half a mile away from us, he sniffed disbelievingly. He can't see the point of doing intelligence tests on pigs, either, because he's convinced that cows are the brightest animals on the farm. His Friesian Holsteins go out to the correct pasture by themselves each morning, and come in for milking at exactly the right time without being called. They answer to their individual names, too, and they've even discovered how to bang against the feeders in the milking parlour to get them to release an extra ration. Also, if they see anyone in a brown coat standing in the yard they'll hide because the vet wears a brown coat, and they're deeply suspicious of his motives.

Challenged to come up with an example of unusually brilliant bovine behaviour, this neighbour described a bull he'd known, which was always given six swedes to eat at teatime. It would refuse to start eating if it was only given five — so presumably it had learnt to count.

The experiments on pigs at Bristol University are not going to involve anything as complex as teaching them to count swedes. The professor in charge, Dr Michael Mendl, is apparently most interested in discovering whether pigs can develop deceptive behaviour, and learn how to fool other pigs. He may be surprised to learn that sheep, traditionally considered the silliest animals on the farm, have already done this.

A few years ago at Lloyd Maunder, one of the largest slaughterhouses in Devon, they employed a pet lamb. It would lead newly arrived sheep from their holding pens to the door of the slaughterhouse, reassuring and calming them by its presence. This wasn't an isolated incident — Judas lambs have been used for centuries — and it would be hard to come up with a more perfect example of deceitful behaviour.

In fact, as the biggest sheep farmer in our village claims, there's a good case for saying that sheep are the most intelligent farm animal. He argues this because, unlike horses, cows and working dogs, sheep are mostly determined to use their cleverness in order to obstruct the work of the farmer. There's no way, for instance, that you could ever bark a command at a sheep and get it to sit down. Yet they're expert at mastering new technology: vandalising feeders and escaping from any kind of fencing. Also — as he points out — if you've ever tried moving undetected across a stretch of farmland when a pet lamb wants to be fed, you'll soon discover how skilled they are, not only at tracking humans and anticipating their next move, but at identifying them, whatever disguise they happen to be wearing.

But the only serious flaw in sheep intelligence that he's aware of is that they're too trusting. If they've always been treated with kindness on the farm, they have no inkling of what lies ahead when they're taken on that last journey to the market place or to the slaughterhouse. Maybe total cynicism about the true motives of others is actually the key factor in animal intelligence. If so, perhaps that's why, after 9,000 years, we're farming and observing them with clipboards, rather than the other way around.

TONY STONE



Beavers are famous for building dams across rivers. Anglers claim this will harm fish, but Scottish Natural Heritage believes fish will benefit and rivers become cleaner

Eager beavers to return home

Beavers could soon be reintroduced to Scotland's rivers, from which they disappeared more than 300 years ago. But the plan has not been welcomed by all. **Derwent May** investigates

In a few years, there may be beavers splashing about in Scottish rivers again. They used to be natives of Scotland, but they disappeared from the Highlands more than 300 years. Now, the conservationists at Scottish Natural Heritage are thinking about reintroducing them into the wild but are facing stiff opposition from anglers.

Beavers are delightful and on the whole harmless creatures. They do not eat fish, though they live among them. In the summer, they feed like gourmets on water lilies and other water flowers; in the winter, they eat the branches and bark of waterside trees such as aspen and birch. They have thick, glossy brown fur and a flat tail, like a paddle, with which they slap the water as a warning to their family when there is danger. They swim with their webbed hind feet, and they have very sharp teeth.

What they are most famous for is building dams across the rivers they live in. They do this so that the water level will rise behind the dam and create a wide, deep pool.

Meanwhile, on the bank of the river behind the dam, they build a "lodge" of sticks and mud. The water rises and spreads out all round it, and there they are with a safe home on an island of their own creation. The pool is also useful for keeping large branches in as a store of food — especially desirable in the winter.

They are very much family creatures. A lodge is usually occupied by a pair of adults, the youngsters from the previous year and, in the summer, the newly born young or "kits" as they are called.

The following year, the older children move off and set up families of their own, and the younger ones take their place.

It is a very well-organised and peaceful life — or at least it was until trappers came on the scene in North America, Europe and Asia. In the 18th century the British and French even fought a war over beavers, so valuable had their pelts become — which, broadly speaking, is how we ended up with Canada.

Beavers survive in some of their old haunts on both sides of the Atlantic, but they are always at risk, and Scottish Natural Heritage started thinking about the return of the beaver as a contribution to a European-wide attempt to build up their numbers. It seems as if they could once more become a splendid natural part of the Scottish landscape and ecological system.

For the past two years, studies have been going on into the likely impact of beavers on natural water systems in Scotland and on the riverside woodlands that they would live in. Suitable sites for reintroducing them have also been investigated. The best homes for beavers have been found along the rivers of central Scotland — the Ness, Spey, Dee and Don, Angus, Tay and Lomond river systems.

As a very rough estimate, it is thought that these rivers could accommodate 400 to 500 individuals, that is about 100 beaver families.



'Beavers fell trees for dams, but such assaults on riverside trees have a negligible effect on the wood'

Last Thursday, Scottish Natural Heritage invited all the interested parties to a meeting in Perth at which it launched a consultation document. It wants to hear what landowners, anglers and anyone else concerned think of the proposal.

Anglers have so far raised the most objections. Among their fears are that trout and salmon may find their movement along a river impeded by beaver dams, that debris introduced into the rivers may do damage, that sediment may spoil the shallow pools where fish spawn, and that access to the flooded riverside for the anglers themselves may become much more difficult.

Scottish Natural Heritage believes, on the contrary, that fish will benefit. Above all, it believes that the rivers will become cleaner, to the great benefit of its fish inhabitants. Sediment will actually diminish, because it will be caught in the dams. Acid seeping in from the riverside woodland will not pollute the water but will settle harmlessly in the bottom of the deep beaver pools.

There is evidence that the tiny aquatic invertebrates which fish eat become more numerous when there are beavers in the river, perhaps because of the increased organic matter the beavers introduce. Experience from abroad also shows that trout and salmon have no difficulty in getting through the dams, which are not as impenetrable as they look. The American beaver does indeed build large, formidable dams, but the European beaver — a separate species, and the one that would come back to Scotland — makes comparatively small ones. In times of drought, too, the deep pools will provide a better refuge for fish. Finally, anglers will always get to a river.

Nor is there any serious evidence of harm being done to woodlands. The beavers do, of course, fell trees for their dams, gnawing patiently through the trunk — in fact they can get through a trunk up to a yard in diameter. They also eat bark and sever branches for food. But such assaults on the riverside trees have a negligible effect on the wood behind. The Timber Growers Association is not opposing the return of the beaver.

Certainly, the picture conjured up by Scottish Natural Heritage is a rosy and charming one. We shall be able to see a pair of beavers taking it in turns to chew their way through a treetrunk, while their little kits learn to feed in the pool or the sparkling river. The pool will itself attract more wildlife, such as kingfishers, and when in due course the beavers move and the pool dries out, it will leave behind a rich "beaver meadow" for wild flowers to colonise.

It is like a vision of an ancient Scotland restored. Over the next few years, let us hope it receives the support to become a reality.

Tight? Mean? Moi? Just very careful

SEVEN LONG DAYS: AS A CHEAPSKATE

This week's challenge required me to be a cheapskate. Not being cheap by nature, I wrote to Sir James Savile, OBE, to ask him how it was done. I didn't put a stamp on my envelope, which is probably why Jimmy hasn't written back. But even if I'd remembered the stamp, it's doubtful that Jimmy would have fixed a stamp to his reply. I mean, 20p is 20p.

Nonetheless, I think I know what Jimmy would have said to me: that he isn't mean, that he's just careful. So that's what I told myself as I counted out £9 for my train fare to London. I wasn't being mean. I was just being careful. Mainly, I was being careful that my wife didn't catch me stealing from my son's piggy bank.

I went to London to meet a friend in a wine bar. En route, I passed *Big Issue* vendor number 600,000,014. The week before, when I'd been feeling more generous, this vendor had sold me a copy. This week, I tried to sell it back to him. Patiently, he explained that an old magazine was no use to him, that he was now selling the very latest edition. I said: "Well, that's nice for you. Meanwhile, I'm £1 out of pocket."

I suggested a compromise. If the vendor gave me a few complimentary copies of the *Big Issue*, I could pretend to be homeless, sell them to the public and make a small profit.

At this point, vendor 600,000,014 swore and chased me down Regent Street. Luckily, he ran out of breath before I reached the wine bar. Otherwise, I might have been forced to buy him a drink.

In the bar, I met an old friend called Bob. Bob works for the BBC. Because it was his birthday, he ordered champagne. We shared the champagne out equally, which didn't seem right to me, because I work for a living and he sits around making terrible TV programmes.

So whenever Bob went to the gents, I emptied his glass into mine, just to make the world a fairer place. At the end of the evening, Bob paid. He had to. I was too drunk to sign the cheque.

The next day, I rang my local Benefits Advice Centre to find out if there was any help for people who earned lots of money but didn't like spending it. I spoke to a frosty woman called Anne who told me to get off the line.

"Let me put it another way," I ventured. "Drawing money out of the bank makes me feel ill. Does this entitle me to sickness benefit?"

Anne explained that she was a volunteer and that, by making a pointless call, I was depriving genuine callers of her time. I apologised and asked her to lend me a fiver. She hung up.

Unable to get help from the state, I was forced to economise. I did my sums and worked out that, by not eating, I could cut my food bills significantly. I also saved a fortune in disposable nappies by sticking a potty to my toddler's bottom with superglue.

To slash the cost of shopping in town, I waited until the carpark attendants had gone home, then parked free of charge. By this time, it was dark and all the shops had closed. But I had saved £1.60.

I treated my local supermarket as a free video library by buying videos, watching them, then demanding my money back on spurious grounds. For example, having enjoyed *The Full Monty*, I obtained a refund by complaining that an actor had ginger hair.

Within a week, I halved my phone bill by calling people, saying a few words and then putting down the receiver in mid-sentence. Invariably, the people I'd phone would ring back, wondering why we'd been cut off. Then it was safe to talk as long as I liked, knowing that someone else was paying for the call.

When I went out for a walk, I didn't waste my time admiring the scenery. I kept my eyes glued to the ground, looking for 10p pieces. For some reason, people drop more 10p pieces than any other kind of coin. On Oxford Street, I picked up £1.30 in 10p pieces. The fact that they came from a blind man's cap didn't deter me. Finders keepers.



DAVID BOWKER



ROBERT THOMSON

FLPA



The muntjac deer has damaged woods and forests

And the buck stop here

Malcolm Smith tracks a destructive Chinese mammal breeding in England

IN 1942, when Walt Disney's cute little Bambi first appeared on cinema screens, coffee-brown lookalikes, half the size of a red setter, and with a dog-like bark, were spotted in woods in Bedfordshire. Few people recognised these little deer: they could even be mistaken — albeit at a distance — for foxes.

Since then, the muntjac deer, a native of China, has spread across most of southern England and is pushing north and west into Wales. While they look harmless, the animals are increasingly being blamed for damage to the environment greater than their size suggests.

"There are probably about 50,000 muntjacs in Britain," says Professor Stephen Harris, of Bristol University, who is an expert on the spread of this dinky deer. "Within a decade they could outnumber our own fallow deer, especially if the run of mild winters continues. Muntjac don't survive well in cold weather."

Introduced at the turn of the century into parks such as Woburn, Tring and Whipsnade in Bedfordshire, muntjacs soon escaped or were released into nearby woods. Until the late 1960s, there they stayed, kept in check perhaps by a succession of cold winters.

Their explosive spread since was thought to be natural for this prolific breeder, a myth dismissed by Professor Harris. "Left to their own devices, they spread at a rate of about one kilometre a year," he says.

Keeping them as pets may be an even greater problem, says Professor Harris. "Muntjacs are cheap to buy, pretty and cute, appealing to anyone with a bit of land who fancies keeping deer.

"Inevitably, they escape. If I could, I would ban anyone from keeping them and I'd have existing herds humanely destroyed."

So what damage do these small mammals do? In Monk's Wood, a 157-hectare broadleafed woodland National Nature Reserve near Huntingdon, Amie Cooke of English Nature has studied their impact over the last four years. "Muntjacs are damaging seedlings of birch, ash and field maple in the wood. Coppiced stumps of ash are often destroyed," Dr Cooke says. As a result, the natural balance between different tree species might be altered.

THEIR IMPACT on the plants of the woodland floor is even more devastating. Dog's mercury, a common plant once used to make blue dye, once covered a third of the wood. Now it covers only 1 per cent. Course grasses have taken its place, a change partly the result of muntjac.

Many of the bluebells have been eaten. Primroses flowers have been reduced. And, in a population of common spotted orchids studied by Dr Cooke, muntjacs ate about 70 per cent of their showy purple and white flowers.

Nor does the ecological damage necessarily stop there. Because bramble thickets have been reduced by deer browsing, nightingales — which rely on dense cover — might decline. So, too, might some insects, such as the rare white admiral butterfly.

English Nature has had to install expensive electric fencing to keep them out of vulnerable parts of Monk's Wood, but constructing muntjac-proof fences around entire forests is expensive.

But, if this little deer isn't as cute as Bambi after all, why aren't they being shot to control their spread?

Mainly because they are small and difficult to spot; because there isn't enough meat on them to bother with; because the bucks don't sport showy antlers; and because the does are either pregnant or suckling a fawn year round.

Perhaps the only good muntjac news is that they are unlikely to spread countrywide. Too far north and colder winters will curb their style. Nevertheless, this deer with a bite that is worse than its bark is here to stay.

A VET WRITES

Q Next year I will be moving to South Africa. An important part of my family is a two-year-old golden retriever and I would like her to come with us. Her shaggy coat seems more suited to the Arctic than the Cape coast. Would she be hot and uncomfortable?

A Dogs lose most of their excess heat by panting — blowing out hot air. They do lose heat by radiation — that's why dogs lie on their side, or back, with legs extended in hot weather. They're exposing as much surface as possible to every passing breeze. I'm sure your retriever will cope with, and enjoy, the heat.

Q I have an 18-month-old border collie bitch who is blind because she has detached retinas. She can see only shades of light and dark. In humans laser surgery is used to correct this condition. Can this be done in dogs?

A Surgical procedures in humans can usually be performed on animals. And it works both ways. Many people have benefited from techniques developed in animals. While laser surgery could reattach the retinas, this may not restore her sight because other things are wrong. Ask your vet to arrange a consultation with a veterinary ophthalmologist.

Q We have eight bantams — and plenty of eggs. They scratch around the garden, deal death to slugs and worms, but don't do a lot of good to the plants. Now they have learnt to fly over the fence next door. Our neighbour is an enthusiastic gardener and busy claws and beaks don't fit in with his ideas of horticulture. I've been told that clipping the birds' wings will keep them at home. How do I do this?

A Clipping the flight feathers (those are the long ones) on one wing will make take-off difficult. The uneven lift from one clipped and one unclipped wing means she'll be unbalanced and unable to gain altitude. Make sure you use a strong, sharp pair of scissors so that you don't tear or split the feathers.

JAMES ALLCOCK

● *Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

Want an exotic pet? Then getting attached to a phasmid could be the answer, says Sue Corbett

Let's stick together

DAVID GRAY





A female spiny leaf insect



Boys like spiny, smelly pets

This weekend pet lovers in search of a tiny and exotic pet will get a chance to sample some of the most colourful creatures on offer today: stick insects. Although most people may not have thought of the insects as the Sean Connerys of the entomological world, they have also been the stars of an Indiana Jones movie. Unlike Connery, however, the creatures on show at the Midlands Entomological Fair are not gun-toting heroes, but prickly flying insects that inspire more terror than admiration from the females who touch them.

They may be scary, but the insects are easy to handle. Despite its scorpion-like appearance, the *Extatosoma tiaratum* is harmless, like most stick insects, and great fun to keep. It does emit a pungent defensive odour, but that, of course, may even be one of its principle attractions for young boys.

Keep an *Extatosoma tiaratum* or any other stick for 24 hours and the chances are you'll be bonded with it for the rest of its short life (they live for about a year). Owners have even been known to put their sticks in kennels when they go on holiday, and show no embarrassment when taking them to the vicar's pet-blessing service alongside the neighbour's Great Dane.

If sticks have a dull image, it can only be the fault of their name (given to them because of their ability in the wild to camouflage themselves as bits of dry twig). A number are splendidly coloured and, as some are sexually dimorphic, a red male and a black-and-yellow striped female can appear in the same species. Some even have wings.

It has been known for stick owners to stage moulting parties. "They're fun to watch when they're shedding their skins," says Stan Pack, a long-standing member of the Phasmid Study Group, the 600-strong club for the owners of phasmids (stick and leaf insects). "You can tell a couple of days beforehand that they're going to moult, so you can invite friends round. The stick insects hang upside down and then split along the top of the head, push their new head out and pull the rest of themselves out. It's a miracle to me to watch it."

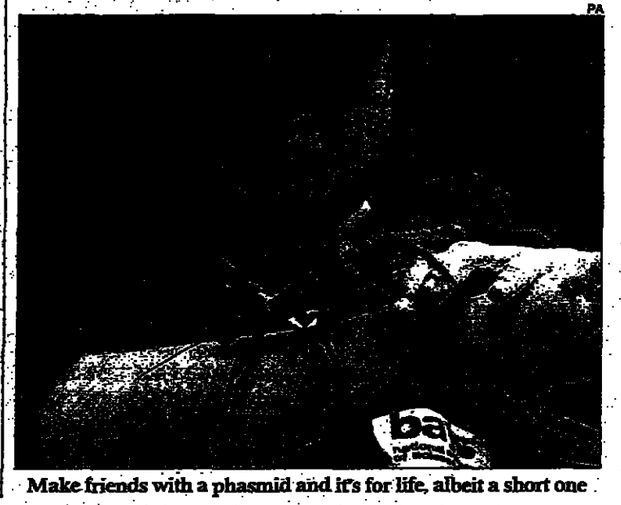
Sticks tend to be more active at night, but will entertain you by day if you darken the room. Even egg-laying can be interesting and varies according to the species. The Thailand stick insect Baculum thaii catapults its eggs over several centimetres, the Javanese buries its eggs and the pink-winged glues its eggs around its cage.

Some species are parthogenetic (females only) but others can be *sexual athletes. Phasmid member* Robert Williamson reports that his one male *Anisomorpha monstrosa* has been making a play for all three of his females since the two younger ones matured. Danger lurks with some stick insects, however. The Florida stick insect *Anisomorpha buprestoides* emits a defensive spray that can trigger an asthma attack or temporary blindness.

"And if you pick up the jungle nymph *Heteropteryx dilatata* roughly, it will try to catch your fingers between its powerful, muscular, spiky back legs and its *abdomen," says David Rushen, who* runs The Living World, an insect and marine life exhibition at Seven Sisters Country Park in East Sussex.

Phasmid members keep 70 species between them, and a great advantage of membership (£5 a year) is a free supply of other members' surpluses of eggs, nymphs and adults. This makes stick insects a remarkably inexpensive hobby, despite outside dealers' prices that may be as high as £20 for just one specimen.

It sounds fun and cheap, so where do you start? "The Indian stick *insect Carausius morosus is one of* the easiest to rear in captivity," says Mr Rushen. "Once it has whetted your appetite, you can ask for something more demanding."



Make friends with a phasmid and it's for life, albeit a short one

They don't talk or play games, but phasmids are fascinating to watch

CREATURE FEATURES

- **The Phasmid Study Group will have a stand at the Midlands Entomological Fair at Kettering Leisure Village, Northants (01536 414141) tomorrow.**
- **For information on the Phasmid Study Group, send an SAE to Paul Brock, 40 Thorndike Road, Slough, Berkshire SL2 1SR.**
- **For details of stick insects for sale (prices from £2.30 for four), write with an SAE to David Rushen, The Living World, Seven Sisters Country Park, Exceat, East Sussex BN25 4AD.**
- **The Living World is holding handling sessions of creatures from cockroaches and millipedes to snakes and lizards on Wednesdays, 11am to 4pm, during the Easter school holidays.**

Taking care of your spiny friends

THERE are 2,500 species of stick insect, or phasmids, some of which grow to 13 inches. The most popular pets are giant prickly, pink-winged or Madagascan, giant spiny, jungle nymph, Trinidad log stick, Annam or Thai.

Stick insects thrive in warm, well-ventilated clear plastic containers, *vivariums or aquariums.* Cover the top with muslin or a fine net for ventilation. Keep them at room temperature, but away from bright sunlight. Heat mats provide good temperature control, *and any vents should be thin and* escape-proof. Ensure ample space — three times an insect's eventual length — so they can hang properly and moult. Line the container with plain white paper. This helps to identify nymph eggs among the droppings.

Stick insects thrive on bramble (blackberry) leaves, washed and *trimmed of brown edges. Provide* entire shoots for food and exercise, and keep bramble fresh with water using a narrow-necked vessel, sealed with cotton wool, otherwise the insect could drown. Evergreen oak, *pyracantha or rose* leaves are healthy alternatives to bramble. Eucalyptus plants are excellent, too. Remove food when it starts to wilt.

Stick insects require a daily light misting with tepid water, while some *(Eurycantha)* need a shallow dish of drinking water. Most are prone to chilling and find flea and *fly spray a hazard. They often* shed injured limbs.

ALEX WIJERATNE

● *Recommended:* Your First Stick Insect, *£1.45; available from most pet stores (inquiries: 01705 268122).*

Male pride left hanging in the balance

Is Hillary using Buddy as a scapedog for Bill's sins? Carol Price cuts to the quick



PA

Bill Clinton and Buddy — both facing difficult decisions

Sometimes you have to feel sorry for Bill Clinton. A President whose term in office has been dogged by sex scandals now finds his dog initiating the latest and best one yet. All over America last week heated public and media debate deliberated whether Buddy, the Clintons' six-month-old Labrador, should or should not be neutered.

American animal welfare representatives — *mainly female* — argued that "snipping" the presidential dog would "make a statement for responsible pet ownership". Breeders — mainly male — raged that it would "disfigure a beautiful animal". Mr Clinton is said to fear it will make Buddy "less of a dog", but Hillary Clinton wants the deed done, so done it is likely to be.

Many good arguments can be put forward for neutering a male dog you never intend to breed from. It can help to reduce aggression, straying after *bitches (with subsequent unwanted* pups) and more "anti-social" hormonally fuelled behaviour such as "scent-marking" your best furniture or mounting visitors' legs. Castration can also prevent testicular or prostate cancer later in a dog's life.

John Bower of the British Veterinary Association says that, "depending on the dog's size and age, the procedure takes about half an hour and most dogs recover 24 hours later. They may feel a little sore at first, but they certainly don't look down and think, 'oh no — I've lost them'."

In this country, as in America, Mr Bower believes it is humans rather than dogs who agonise over the implications of "the snip". And this agonising, as in the Clinton household, has a distinct gender bias. "The wives almost invariably will come into the vet's surgery thinking the dog should be neutered, while the husband stands there grimacing and looking most reluctant," says Mr Bower. "Why? Well if you're a man, *it's obvious. We put* ourselves in the dog's place and wouldn't want it done to us."

The writer David Thomas, who has spent much of his career defending "male interests against feminist excesses" thinks one cannot overlook the more Freudian dimensions of the neutering debate. "Many men find the enthusiasm with which women want to castrate male animals really spooky," he says. "And there's no doubt in my mind that Hillary Clinton intends to make poor Buddy a scapedog. Vicariously, she's going to make him pay for Bill's sins."

There has been debate in the Portsmouth home of the Thomases recently as to whether or not their three-year-old black Labrador, Rowdy, should "lose his plums". Clare Thomas thinks castrating Rowdy could "reduce his boisterousness and calm him down". Mr Thomas is adamant that Rowdy's equipment "will remain *sitting proudly under his bottom*".

Rowdy is not known to have an opinion either way. But while his male attributes hang, as it were, in the balance, Mrs Thomas has looked into the possible compromise of some "neuticles". These are prosthetic devices that can be inserted, post-neutering, into the emptied scrotal sacs of dogs to make them look normal.

Although popular in America, they are not readily available here. Mr Bower says this is just as well: "To my mind they are ridiculous devices with no point other than to satisfy an owner's ego. They bring no benefits to the dog — just a risk of infection and other health problems after insertion."

Mr Bower believes that castration is only vital in dogs whose testosterone levels are causing "serious behavioural problems". Mr Thomas still needs persuading. "OK," he says, "Rowdy isn't neutered. So he'll have a life regularly blighted by sexual frustration and a risk of prostate problems down the line. Just like most men you know, but we get by. I still think it's mainly women who want neutering done. I'm still convinced that if Hillary Clinton could get Bill fixed up with a *set of neuticles, she'd see it as the end to* all her problems."

● *For a free factsheet on neutering — The Kindest Cut — send an sae to The National Canine Defence League, 17 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7LT (0171-837 0006).*

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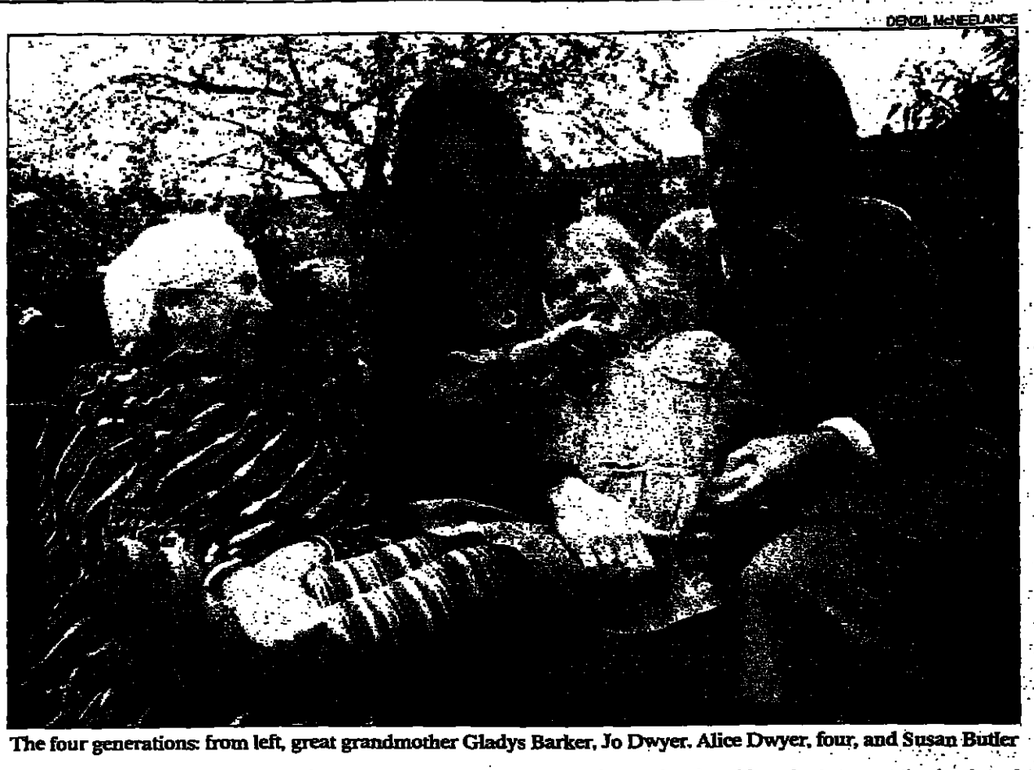
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On the eve of Mother's Day, **Marina Cantacuzino** talks to three generations of women from the same family about . . .

Listen with mother

DENZIL McNEELANCE



The four generations: from left, great grandmother Gladys Barker, Jo Dwyer, Alice Dwyer, four, and Susan Butler

GLADYS BARKER



Gladys: disciplinarian

Gladys Barker, 84, was one of six children. She was married at 21 and she still lives with her husband in Walton-on-Thames where she raised her children, Susan and John.

Susan and I were very close. When she was 17, I told her what I'd still say to any teenage girl today — that men are old-fashioned and like to marry a virgin.

This kind of intimacy was quite different from the way I was brought up. In those days, I doubt if women understood how babies were made, let alone knew how to raise children. We weren't brought up with love or any attention because every child who came along was another mouth to feed. My mother never took us on her lap to kiss or cuddle us. The attitude was that children were a burden. They weren't planned as they are today. In my day, women never considered an outside career, and personally I think bringing up a child to be a reasonable citizen is a pretty good career in itself. When the children were young, my husband was quite remote. I did all the childcare. But my children weren't deprived. They had love from me, and although their father would shout at them and tell them what to do, he gave them security. I wonder if men understand what goes on in a child's mind?

I was quite strict about discipline. Table manners were very important. Of course there was no television then and every meal was a family affair. The children had to know how to lay the table properly. They do things differently now, and I'm always surprised when I see Jo's children standing on chairs. By and large, the children I see today aren't allowed to use their imaginations because they're over-stimulated and never left to play on their own. When my first grandchild came to stay, I put a little present under his pillow, and after that he told everyone that when he went to granny's house the fairies came.

SUSAN BUTLER

Susan Butler, 61, was, like her mother, married when she was 21, and has three children: Simon, Jo and Ben. To start with she was a full-time mother, but later did some part-time work.

I've always talked to my mother but Jo and I are more open with each other. The only time I couldn't talk to Jo was when she was 13 and went all trendy. Then I found it difficult.

I had a strict upbringing and was in awe of my father. Like so many men of that time, he was totally absorbed in his demanding business and consequently thought children were a nuisance and took little interest in us. The only thing he cared about was scholastic achievement, and when I wanted to pursue an artistic career he insisted I go to secretarial college instead. It's inconceivable that I could have that sort of authority over Jo, but in those days you did what your parents told you.

I admire my mother because although she didn't have much education, she realised the value of it. She sent me to private school and took me to things like the ballet, Chelsea Flower Show and Ascot. Of course, in those days there were certain things that weren't talked about between mothers and daughters.



Susan: did as mum said

She never told me the facts of life — I learnt them from my biology teacher. But she did send me to see a woman doctor just before I got married so that I could find out about contraception.

I never felt I had enough time with my children when they were growing up. I didn't have a washing machine or vacuum cleaner, so much of life was taken up with chores. I'm very impressed by Jo and her friends. There they are in this grey London street and suddenly doors open and out they come with their buggies and head off to various toddler groups. In my day there was nothing to stop mothers feeling isolated but I still believe the best career is to bring up a family.

Continued on page 19

MARTIN BEDDALL



Andrea Ashworth at Oxford and, below, with a sister. "As a child with holes in your shoes you don't feel you'll be going far. Going to university was my miracle of transition"

The long road to learning

Andrea Ashworth had a deprived childhood. Yet at 28 she is a junior don at Oxford and a novelist. **Madeleine Kingsley** met her

Andrea Ashworth went up to Oxford in October 1987 "with one suitcase holding just about all I owned — three books, a pair of jeans and a clock". As she left home, her mother pressed a fiver into her hand for the taxi. It was all that could be spared and probably a little bit more. "I was so excited on the endless journey," she recalls, "that I told every old lady who smiled at me how I was about to live in a fairytale. Going to university was my miracle of transition."

For Andrea, now 28 and a junior research fellow, the dreaming spires spelled escape from a childhood in inner-city Manchester, so "off the scale terrible" that you think of Dickens or Catherine Cookson. Yet it's the recent Seventies — a seemingly benign decade of flares and Gary Glitter — that Andrea recalls in her memoir *Once in a House on Fire* (Picador, £14.99). And recalls with astonishingly unembittered grace.

Her adored, Elvis-crooning father, a painter and decorator, drowned when Andrea was five. Thereafter her childhood was coloured by violence from one, then a second stepfather, by fear, shame and pain, by wakeful nights as the men slapped, beat and bullied her mother into submission and, eventually, suicidal intent. Hiding rainbow bruises behind dark glasses, Andrea's mother, Lorraine, claimed she'd walked into a door.

Andrea also learnt that one did not speak of a stepfather's request to stick her tongue down his ear. Mention was never made of the countless whacks across her small face, delivered for dancing the twist. The truth about flashing kitchen knives, flying pots and boiling pans, of living every day under siege was never told. And Andrea, hiding behind the school nickname "Smiler", let no one guess. "We — my little sisters and I — probably didn't recognise how bad things were. We normalised what went on and much of the time thought ourselves to blame. I escaped into Enid Blyton."

Calmer interludes, when Andrea's mother briefly left or ousted her brutal partner, meant aching poverty. Andrea and her sisters slept together on bare floorboards, living off chips and water ("corporation champagne") when there was no money for tea or coffee. In her early teens Andrea missed chunks of school, truanting with her winkle-pickered, off-the-rails friend Wendy. She was 14 before she understood what university signified. "There are still great gaps in my knowledge of history and geography," says Andrea, who brings her book to an end as she leaves home for Oxford, so leaving the reader thirsting to learn what happened next.

It's surreal to sit with this poetic young don in Oxford's smartest cafe bar, hearing how hanks of hair were pulled out by a vicious stepfather and how she was reduced to lining her only pair of shoes with cardboard. Andrea wryly observes: "As a child with holes in your soles you don't feel you'll be going anywhere very far."

Her success, against all the odds, will likely set psychologists scurrying to revise their views on nurture trumping nature. Just before her finals, Julia Briggs, Andrea's English professor at Hertford, warned against setting early exam hopes too high ("You are, after all untutored," she warned, adding with affectionate



Andrea's tutor warned her against high exam hopes and told her 'My dear, you're a savage'

candour, "in fact, my dear you're savage!") But Andrea got her first, and, in due course, a double first. At 22 she became Hertford's youngest ever Junior Dean. "Julia Briggs, who knew something of my history, found it hilarious that, as far as the Senior Common Room was concerned, I might have sprung from Roedean."

Andrea certainly looks — as she speaks — like jeunesse dorée. She has the face of a contemporary madonna, an olive-skinned, intense and fragile beauty. She has long expressive hands, tendrils of face-framing hair and an air of classless chic. Heads swivel constantly to our table, though whether to stare admiringly or tune in to her tale of dramatic extremes is hard to gauge.

It must seem extra shocking that, in this of all civilised cities, Andrea's stepfather tore up her precious anthology of fairytales, scrunching the pages into "paper fists". And how all the more wonderful is it therefore that Andrea survived domestic barbarism to study in a book-stuffed "gingerbread" room, waking beneath ancient beams every day. "When I first came, it was such a luxury to know that noises in the night were simply people having fun."

Educating Rita had nothing on Andrea's unspoiled excitement at finding the world her cultural oyster. "I was lucky to go up at a time when it was fashionable to be working class. At Oxford I could feel attractive for the first time, because even though I was so terribly loved by my mother, what my stepfather did made me feel ugly, bad and squashed."

Overcome by altruism in her second year she volunteered to work at a battered women's refuge. "I played with the children and taught them the alphabet, but every time I went to leave they'd fix their arms around my neck and cling to me with heartbreaking strength. I knew their feelings so well."

To boost her student grant Andrea cleaned the huge North Oxford houses in term time. "The people I worked for wondered how I could bear to do this. But it wasn't a problem. I think I've plenty of the right kind of pride, and not much of the damaging, stultifying sort."

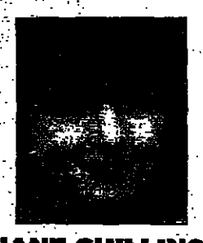
Fallout from the past inevitably persists: despite the book advance and film rights looming to boost her academic stipend, Andrea still balks at shopping for herself. She says: "Owning four pairs of shoes feels almost excessive. I've a certain survivor's guilt and it's hard to bear that my life is so shiny and perfect, when for so many years my mother had such an intractably tough time." Only recently has she been able to buy kitchen equipment without seeing it as missile material. But one positive legacy from the past is that "the smallest goodness and pleasure makes me excited. The volume is always turned up for me".

She might have viewed the past darkly if she alone had got away. But, amazingly, both her sisters have also remade their lives through the gumption and brains of which their mother is touchingly and unenvyingly proud. Laurie, who was once beaten by her stepfather for daring to win a modern dance competition, read French and German at Cambridge and is now dancing again on the Ivory Coast. Sarah, the blonde, blue-eyed half-sister who suffered most, and went through a heartbreaking phase of self-harm, is now a cardiac technician. Lorraine, too, finally broke free. "She made a new life with a very mild-mannered man in Devon," says Andrea, aglow.

On Tuesday, March 31 at 7pm, Andrea Ashworth revisits the past. She's reading from *Once in a House on Fire* at Waterstone, 91 Deansgate, Manchester, where she bought her first book — Sylvia Plath's *Bell Jar*, with a book token prize for physics.

Whose life is it anyway? His or mine?

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

"SOMEONE HAS moved my Thomas Turntable Playtrack, and I didn't want it moved," said Alexander, sniffing about the drawing room like the smallest and crossest of the three bears. "Someone has been touching my things. I wonder who it could be." Oh, all right, Sarge, you've got me bang to rights. Put the cuffs on and take me down the station and I'll cough to the bedroom dusting as well . . .

We spent last weekend apart, the child and I. He went to the Thomas the Tank Engine Festival (to which you can imagine, I was so disappointed not to be able to accompany him), while I went off to Oxford for a spot of fantasy house hunting. While I was there, I drifted into the Ashmolean and came across a postcard with a picture that is the very image of what Alexander's room would be like if I did as he wanted. It is a photograph of a set of rooms in Christ Church, which are no longer rooms, precisely, but have become a sort of cave, hollowed out of a large, unstable accretion of thousands upon thousands of books. Other objects are visible — bottles of port, a disgusting old gown, something that looks like an ancient kipper. Probably the original occupant is in there somewhere, too, mummified, having been laid out cold by a plummeting copy of *Johnson's Dictionary* back in 1895. This, plainly, is a room whose owner shared Alexander's disdain for the vulgar intrusion of the vacuum cleaner and Mr Sheen.

A good many things about becoming a mother have surprised me. But nothing about bringing up Alexander has amazed me more than his intense conservatism about absolutely everything — food, literature, entertainment, clothing. Trying to negotiate with him over dinner or a bedtime story, you can easily see how people end up like the late Lord Lucan, lunching daily at the same club, at the same hour, on the same dish; or Nancy Mitford's Farve, who read *White Fang*, and thought it so frightfully good, he never read anything else.

Still, at least Lord Lucan and Farve didn't inflict their eccentricities of diet or reading matter on anyone else. The trouble with Alexander and his routine is that it gives me little option but to fall in behind him. The result is a boredom of exquisite refinement, undreamt of in my childless days. Nothing comes close — not even listening to a disaffected science teacher explaining valency in the final half hour of a double chemistry lesson on a dank Thursday afternoon in mid-Seventies Sittingbourne.

Take the Bus Museum in Covent Garden. We must have been there about 50 times. These days, when we visit, I find myself gripped by the urge to let off the fire alarm, just to add some variety to the experience. When Alexander was younger and naughtier, he used to squeeze past the notices saying Do Not Board, so there was at least the possibility that we might get an invigorating telling-off from a museum official. But these days, he has become law-abiding.

"That's a detonator," he says, knowledgeably. "Good," I say. "Let's stamp on it and make it explode." "You can't do that," cries Alexander in anguish. "It's the museum's, not ours. And other children might want to look at it." I feel a rebellion brewing. I'm his mother, dammit. I ought not to let myself be bossed about in this craven fashion, I should be forming his mind. This is easy to say. But though Alexander may look like St-Exupéry's Little Prince, he is a tough nut. If ever he is captured by the enemy, I shall be most surprised if they manage to get out of him anything but his name, rank and number — and "no, thank you".

"I know," I suggest, after our 51st expedition to the Bus Museum. "Let's go to a Chinese restaurant and have Dim Sum, which is like toy food." "No, thank you," says Alexander. "But why not?" I whine. "Chinese food is lovely." "It is adult food," says Alexander, patiently. "And I don't like adult food. Let's go to McDonald's, Mum. You really should try it." "No, thank you." I say stonily.

WE END up in a pizzeria where I have another go. "Since you like Italian food, perhaps we could go to Italy this summer, instead of Devon. In Venice, all the streets are full of water, you know." "Mmm," says Alexander. "I think I'd rather go on the Exmoor Steam Railway, like last year." But, but, I say, the world is full of the most wonderful things. Even more remarkable than the steam railway, some of them. "Yes," says Alexander, evidently considering this idea. I hold my breath. "But at the moment, I am still very interested in the railway." And that is the end of that conversation. Someone's mind is being formed here, clearly. I wonder whose.

. . . their different upbringing and **Louisa Young** discusses the problems which working mothers face in the Nineties

Still left holding the baby

Continued from page 18

JO DWYER

Jo Dwyer, 36, ran a successful film catering business, but is now training to be a counsellor. She has two children, Alice, 4, and Sam, 3, and is expecting her third child in June.



Jo always had a proper tea

For my mother and grandmother, it wasn't a dilemma writing "housewife" when filling in a form but I hate it — I guess because now there's a far greater pressure on women to have it all.

The experience of having children has changed so much since my grandmother's day. For her, it was a question of having sole responsibility for the child while my grandfather put all his energy into making money. But things change, and by the time I was expecting Alice, he was fascinated by me being pregnant and when she was born he actually held her. It made my grandmother cry, because it had taken three generations for that to happen.

I'm part of the generation that encourages children to talk about their emotions, and I'm very conscious of explaining to my children why something has to happen rather than just saying "because I say so". When my children ask me where babies come from, I tell them, whereas when I asked those questions I never got a straight answer. I never felt I could talk to my mother about sex because of her prim upbringing. We couldn't communicate on an intimate level. I want to keep communication going with my children through their teenage years.

When I was a child, on the whole I did as I was told whereas my children often ignore me. My mother says we never had tantrums. Maybe we were cowed into submission or maybe we just knew our place. For instance, when we went to visit my grandmother, the children always ate separately from the adults whereas my children would never accept that.

Although I'm an equally devoted mother and probably spend more time doing things with my children than my mother did, everything is more haphazard nowadays. Mum was much more thorough. She never put a milk bottle on the table and we always had a proper tea, during which we'd have to say please and thank you and then ask to get down.

My mother was keen for us to be academic, but now I tell her off for not making me work harder. My attitude is less relaxed and I want my children to do better than I did. She was pleased when I trained as a nurse but she'd have preferred me to be a musician or ballerina — the things she was good at but never able to pursue.

Mum was a positive role model — nurturing and homely and always there when we came home from school. At first she was a full-time mother and a farmer's wife but then later she did various part-time jobs to bring in some extra cash. Unlike her I wanted to keep my career while having children, but unfortunately it didn't work out that way, because although I ran a successful catering film catering business, the hours didn't fit in with family life. Counselling would be more flexible.

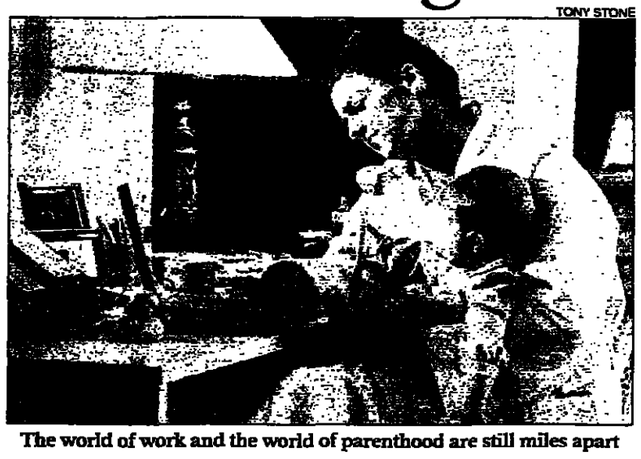
Mum and I get on better since I've been married and had children of my own, but we still clash on morals. She doesn't like people living together or having babies out of marriage.

At a debate on feminism last week, the editor of a national newspaper said that it was a scandal that working hours and school hours didn't line up, and why couldn't schools be open until 6pm? A ripple of snorts ran round the largely female audience, each with its own array of reasons. Has he ever met a child? Does he know what they're like by 3.30pm, even, after a day at school? Does it not cross his mind that "work" might adapt to family, rather than, as always, the other way round? And anyway, he had been late for the debate, which began at 6pm not that far from his office. How often would he be able to get from his job to school by 6pm?

This is how wide the gap is between the world of active parenthood and the world of work. The impasse still exists. It is impossible for people in positions of power to understand what being a full-time parent (usually the mother) is like, because to understand it you have to do it, and if you are doing it you certainly don't have time to be in a position of power in the world of work.

So what is a mother? And what does she want? It depends who you ask. Ask the more thoughtless members of the government, or people who have never known, or have forgotten, the joyful and rewarding sides that run through family life alongside the drudgery and the boredom, and she's someone who wants childcare, someone who can't wait to desert her children and get back to work. Ask Melanie Phillips, and she's been forced into androgyny at the expense of her natural maternal urges. Ask Maureen Freely and Fay Weldon, and she's the one that feminism forgot, the undervalued.

TONY STONE



The world of work and the world of parenthood are still miles apart

What's for sure is that she is still responsible. She is still holding the baby, still to blame, still the default mode to which everything reverts. If it's not one thing, it's your mother. All too often she is working so hard, either with the children or in a job, she has no time to think about who she is or what she wants. She hasn't time to read what nonsense is written and said in her name by people not, or no longer, involved in motherhood. She looks at her first-time pregnant sisters who announce "it won't change me" and she laughs hollowly. As Kat Figes points out, new mothers of any class have more in common than they do with other women of their class.

But any mother will agree on some things. She wants what's best for her children. She wants to have some choice about how much and when she works. She wants to be paid enough. She would really like the world to fit around her and her responsibilities sometimes. Not just the pushchair-friendly ramps on the pavement, but the entire work ethos.

I suspect mothers would like to be valued for what they do now, rather than what they did five years ago when they were chief executive, or cheap labour; or what they may do in five years if they ever fight their way back into the rat race. And what they do now is to bring up children. It is not some unimportant role — even for those who measure success in terms of finance and politics.

If half the current prison budget were invested in supporting mothers or fathers who wanted to stay at home with their children for the first five years, I bet the prisons would be half empty in 20 years.

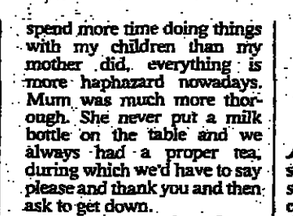
That is what mothers do. Well or badly, relaxedly or in constant anxiety, they shape the minds of those who will run the world when we are pensioners. Or they hand over that shaping to strangers for up to 12 hours a day, because they can't afford not to. We all know that mothers live with and balance this every day.

If working hours were in any way related to the notion of workers having a complete life, not just a working life, then fathers too could bring up their children. So could aunts or uncles, friends or neighbours, grandparents, godparents. Childcare is not just a polarised choice between a bored stuck-at-home mother or an impersonal institutionalised nursery. We have a huge supply of loving, responsible child care — it's called the family. Unfortunately, a lot of them are at work so they can't help even if they would like to. I don't think mothers would be the only ones to benefit if this alienation between family life and the world of work were to change.

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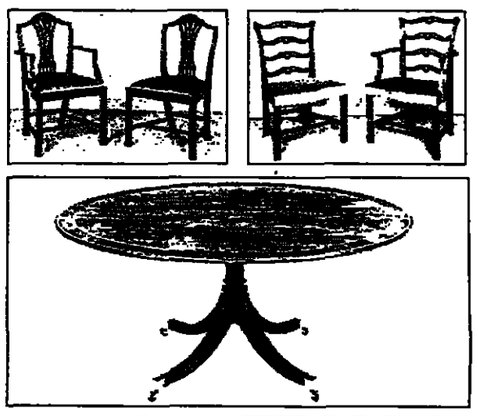
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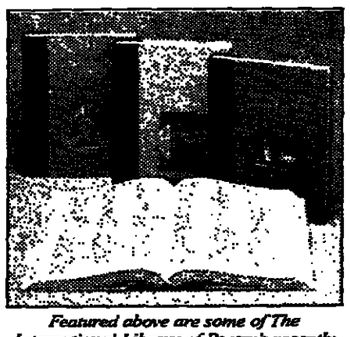
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The poem should be *no more than twenty lines,* must be typed or neatly printed, and the poet's name and address must appear at the top of the page. Poems must be the original work of the submitting author and will not be returned. All poets who enter will receive an acknowledgement, along with complete competition rules, within approximately nine weeks.

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(a pre-publication discount will be available). Every poem remains the exclusive property of its author. Anthologies published by the organisation include: *A Lasting Calm, Awaken to a Dream,* and *Jewels of the Imagination,* among others.

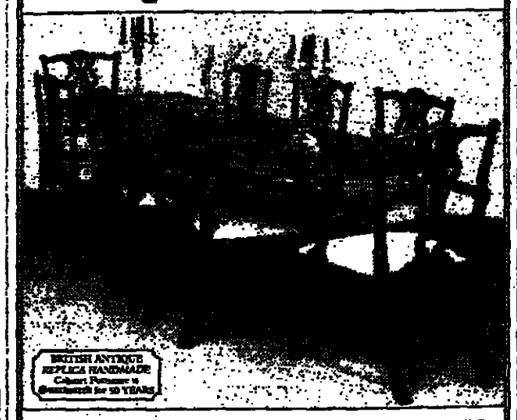
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"It's always exciting to discover new talent," stated Howard Ely, Managing Editor of The International Library of Poetry. "We're especially interested in poems from new or unpublished poets. I urge everyone who is interested in poetry to enter this competition."

For further information and to receive a copy of the rules, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
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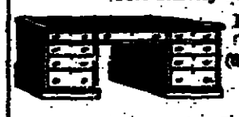
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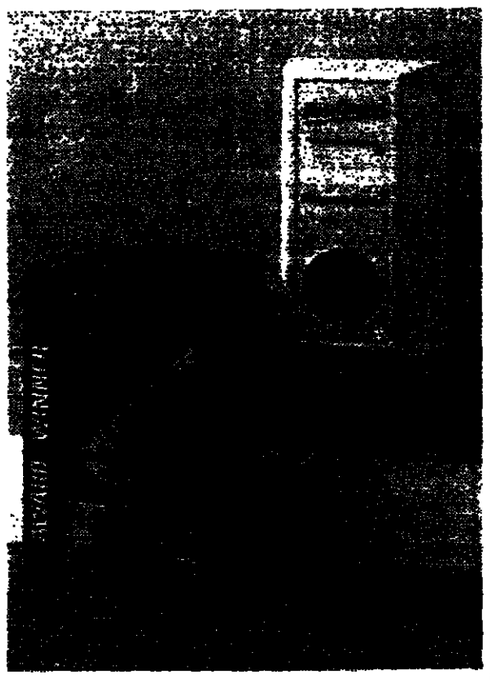
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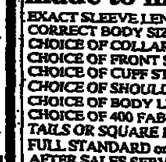
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Memories cast in stone

How do you choose a fitting memorial for Northern Ireland's victims, asks **Martin Fletcher**



Sir Kenneth Bloomfield



PACEMAKER

Flashback to Enniskillen: Sir Kenneth is canvassing opinion for a memorial to all who have died in the Troubles

On a wet night in Cookstown, County Tyrone, two dozen people have gathered in a bland little office on an industrial estate. They are no ordinary people, for almost all have lost a family member to terrorists and their grief is etched upon their faces. Nor is it an ordinary meeting, for they have come to tell a one-man commission in the form of Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, the former head of Northern Ireland's civil service, how they believe their loved ones should be remembered.

Last October, sensing the violence was abating and eager to begin the healing process, the government invited Sir Kenneth to produce ideas for an appropriate memorial to the 3,200 victims of Northern Ireland's "troubles". How do you commemorate Catholic and Protestant, British and Irish, soldier and paramilitary, without causing more division?

The avuncular 66-year-old Sir Kenneth has been canvassing opinions ever since, and the Cookstown meeting vividly illustrates the problems he faces. Most are women, for 91 per cent of the victims were men. Many are the mothers and wives of the eight construction workers killed when the IRA blew up a minibus at the Teebane crossroads in 1992. Their pain is still raw, their capacity for forgiveness is limited, and they have a strong sense of what would and would not be acceptable.

A monument like Washington's Vietnam war memorial with every name on it was unthinkable, they agreed. "My husband was a law-abiding person, and many people who lost their lives were not," declared one young widow. "Quite honestly, I would never visit any monument that stood as a monument to murderers."

Sir Kenneth floated the possibility of a memorial without names, with just an inscription. That too was rejected.

Frances Blackbourne, a woman whose 19-year-old policeman son was shot by the IRA in Newry in 1986, suggested a large house with a lovely garden — a tranquil retreat for bereft wives, mothers and children and the estimated 30,000 injured in the Troubles.

Sir Kenneth offered a vision of a beautiful structure with stained glass windows inscribed — like Washington's presidential memorial — with some of the fine poetry by the likes of Seamus Heaney that the troubles had inspired. He talked of a "library of accounts", similar to one at Jerusalem's Holocaust Memorial, where people could record their stories for posterity. He said people had proposed a memorial forest, or a tract of exquisite countryside, and wondered about an annual holiday that could be enjoyed by both communities in a province where most such days have been purloined by one side or the other.

> 'It's difficult not to shed tears. I don't think I'll ever be the same'

But what has most deeply impressed him over the past few months is the need to provide the victims' families with some sort of lasting support — emotional and material. He has been shaken by the extent to which these "forgotten people" have been left to suffer alone once the funerals were over and the media moved on to the next atrocity. "I've had so many people say that in the aftermath of their terrible traumas they didn't get the support they should have, that they didn't know where to turn to," he says, and his consultations have become almost an end in themselves. Sir Kenneth plays the combined role of priest, doctor and agony aunt.

He has received hundreds of letters from people describing lost relatives and how they died. He describes it as "a great outpouring of emotion" by people who sense that someone is finally listening. Many people have told him that their husbands were killed 20 years ago "and in all that time you are the only person close to authority to whom I've been able to talk of my experience".

Others have been hurt by the attention lavished on those who died in high-profile atrocities like Enniskillen's Remembrance Day bombing in November 1987 when nobody remembers their own sons killed in isolated incidents.

Sir Kenneth meets privately those unable or unwilling to air their intimate feelings at public meetings. Many have wept as they have told him their stories, and he admits that "I've shed some tears myself. It's impossible not to... I don't think I will ever be the same again." He admits to a troubled conscience too. "The establishment of which I was a part ought to have been more aware than it was and ought to have been asking more questions," he says.

Sir Kenneth hopes to send the government his report late next month, by which time the peace talks will, it is hoped, have delivered an accord on a new political dispensation for Northern Ireland. He says he wants to be "a megaphone" for the victims' families.

But chatting after the meeting, a woman named Pauline Bleeks says the one thing she really wants is the one thing Sir Kenneth cannot deliver. She wants to know who it was that killed her 25-year-old son.

Some shocks in modernity



Music sets the mood in Guildford, says **Ruth Gledhill**

HEARTS now beat where harts once panted on reaching the top of Stag Hill on the outskirts of Guildford, sit of this modern cathedral.

Guildford, the only new cathedral to be built in the Church of England's Canterbury province this century, is like Liverpool, its 20th-century sister in the north, a *building which shocks*. It presents a message at once pure and uncompromising.

After a warm welcome from the subdean Maureen Palmer we were seated on the uncomfortable and unattractive wood and metal chairs, which it is hoped, one day, will be replaced. . The cathedral was nearly full. Our celebrant was the Surrey university chaplain Dr Robin Harvey. A Lenten and scholastic spirit prevailed, with students and staff of the university leading intercessions and presenting the gifts of bread and wine at the offertory.

Apart from *Guide me, O thou great Redeemer* at the end, we knew few of the hymns, and so the choir of 18 choristers and 12 lay clerks and scholars came into its own. In spite of the modernity of the cathedral, built against all the odds in the 1930s and consecrated in 1961, a tradition of musical excellence is maintained. The choir, whose choristers attend the Lanesborough prep school in Guildford, won within a few years of the building's completion a golden disc award for sales of more than a million records.

Our preacher was the Rev John Gordon Clark, a chartered accountant who was a director of Matthew Clark, a wines and spirits public company, until he retired in 1989.

Ordained for more than 20 years, he is one of a number of retired clergy who help out regularly at Guildford and who are particularly in demand at present because the Dean is unwell. Mr Clark referred to the parable of the Prodigal Son, and to Rembrandt's painting of the son's return. Individuals could identify either with the prodigal, or with his brother, resentful at the welcome given the sinner on his return, he said. "Such self-examination is salutary to say the least," he added.

Guildford cathedral is a thriving community, and one reason is the programme of events for laity that give it, unlike many Anglican cathedrals, more the feel of a place of worship, prayer and spirituality than a place of tourism. Henri Nouwen's book, *The Return of the Prodigal*, written after the author meditated on the Rembrandt painting, is the theme of this year's cathedral Lent groups. Worshippers are also given a 40-day programme to "count your blessings during Lent".

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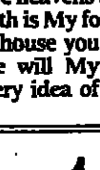
PETER NICHOLLS



The Guildford cathedral choir in full swing

The parallels found in creating a home for God

Credo



JONATHAN SACKS

For the past few weeks, our synagogue readings have been taken from the second half of the book of Exodus in which the Israelites are commanded to construct a sanctuary. It was the first time they had built a collective place of worship. The Hebrew Bible describes it in exhaustive detail.

Biblical scholars have pointed out the linguistic parallels between this passage and one other — the first chapter of the book of Genesis, which describes the origins of the universe. It is as if the Bible were suggesting a symmetry between God's creation of the world and the Israelites' creation of the sanctuary.

This in itself is surprising. Even more so is the space allocated to the two. The creation of the universe is narrated with utmost brevity, in a mere 35 verses. The construction of the sanctuary is told at great length, occupying some 500 verses.

I have often wondered why.

The simplest and most powerful answer I have been able to reach is this. It is easy for God to create a home for mankind. It is far harder for humanity to create a home for God. Yet that was the momentous character of the sanctuary and its successors, the Temple in Jerusalem, and synagogues throughout the world. They became the *human counterparts of Divine creation*. They were God's home in space.

The very idea of a "house of God" puzzled some of the greatest thinkers in ancient Israel. When King Solomon dedicated the Temple, he said, "But will God really dwell on Earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain You. How much less this House that I have built!" The prophet Isaiah said in the name of God, "The heavens are My throne and the Earth is My footstool. Where then is the house you will build for Me? Where will My resting place be?" The very idea of a finite home for an infinite God seemed to be a contradiction in terms.

The answer, though, lay in the precise wording of the command to build a sanctuary. God told Moses to instruct the Israelites to make a tabernacle so that "I will dwell in them". Jewish commentators point out that God *did not say He would dwell* "in it", in the sanctuary, but rather "in them", in the hearts of those who worshipped there. Only one thing is large enough to serve as a home for the Divine presence, the soul. God lives not in buildings but in builders. Judaism is a religion less of holy places than of holy lives and deeds.

I am often asked why Judaism is so intricate a religion, with its multiplicity of laws regulating every aspect of life. To me the most compelling answer lies in the biblical account of the sanctuary. The detail in which its construction is described suggests that the Divine presence is not brought to earth in sudden moments of inspiration but only *through the long, structured, collaborative process through* which a people fashions its life in accordance with the Divine command.

A Jewish legend says that when the Temple was destroyed, fragments of its stones entered the hearts of the Jewish people. They became a kind of human sanctuary. In their lives *the Divine presence found an earthly* home, and each act had its precise place in the design. Jewish law is our architecture of holiness. Through it we become a people at whose centre is the space we make for God.

● *Dr Sacks is Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth.*

Church services tomorrow

Fourth Sunday of Lent

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, Like as the hart (Howells); 3.15 Ch E, Walmisley in *D minor*.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Boreol Weddi; 11 Ch L & Euch, Leighton in D; 3.15 Ch E, Fourth service (Batten); 5 Gosber.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Bogoroditsye Dyevo (Rachmaninoff); 3.30 Ch E, Benedicite (Jackson).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, I sat down under his shadow (Bairstow), Rev M Caddy; 4 Ch E, Harris in A.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M, A: Ave Maria (Josquin); 10.30 Euch, The Blackburn Mass (Rawsthorne); 4 Ch E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, 11 Euch, Canon G Thomas; 3.30 E, Benjamin Rogers in F, A: Remember O Lord what is come upon us (Walmisley); 3.30 E.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Missa brevis (Ives), Canon P Johnson; 3.30 Ch E, Bairstow in E flat.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Ireland in C; 3 E, Insanae et vanae curae (Haydn).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Wood in F, Rev I Moody; 6 Ch E, Responses (Tomkins), Darke in F, Canon D Knight.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch; 3.30 Ch E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Canon Jeffrey; 6 E, Second Service (Byrd).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Mrs M Sedgwick; 3 Polish & German Lutherans; 5 Ch E, Short Service (Tallis).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Schubert in G, Canon G Marshall; 6 Ch E, A: Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in C; 11.15 HC, A: May the grace of Christ our Saviour (Lloyd), The Bishop of Stockholm; 3.30 E, Purcell in B flat.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Rev J McFarlane; 3.45 E, Stanford in F.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa brevis (Britten); 11.15 M, A: The Lord is my shepherd (Schubert); 3 E; 6.30 ES.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 Euch, Stanford in C, Canon N Chatfield; 3 E, A: Lord let me know mine end (Parry).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Stravinsky Mass; 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 6.30 ES, Jackson in G.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Missa l'hora passa (Viadana); 11.30 M, Jackson in G; 3.30 E, A: O Lord rebuke me not (Croft).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Little organ mass (Haydn), The Bishop of Leicester; 4 Ch E, Noble in B minor.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch; Messe solennelle (Vierne); 3.30 E.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 Family Euch, Mass of St Peter (Ridout); 11.15 M, The Lamentation (Bairstow); 12.30 HC; 3.45 E, Fourth service (Batten).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Canon M Boyling; 3 Ch E, The Dean of Liverpool; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 8, 9 Euch; 11 S Euch, Leighton in D, Rev R C Parrish; 12.15 Euch; 3.30 Ch E, Purcell in G minor; 6.30 E.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8, 1.10 Euch; 5.30 E, Sumsion in D.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Family Euch; 6.30 Ch E, Statham in E minor.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor; 3 E, Gloucester service (Howells), Rev A Little; 6.30 Stations of the cross.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M, Sumsion in B flat; 10.30 Euch, Peterborough service (Lloyd); 3.30 E, Moeran in D.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, How in D; 11 S Euch, Darke in F, Rev P Jones; 6 E, Ave Maria (Bruckner).

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Haydn), Canon I Hardaker; 3.15 E, Wise in E flat; 7.30 Kings School choral concert.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Rheinberger in E flat; 11.30 M, The Lamentation (Bairstow); 3 Ch E, Westminster service (Howells); 5 Concert for Sudan medical link.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, A: Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow); 6.30 E, Walmisley in D minor.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne), A: I sing of a maiden (Hadley); 3 Ch E, Harwood in A flat, Canon J John.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L; 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch; 3.15 E, A: Jehova quam multi sunt hostes mei (Purcell); 5.45 Compline.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne); 5.30 Organ meditation; 6 E, Gloucester service (Howells).

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C, Panis angelicus (Charpentier); 11 Sol Euch, Jackson in G, Canon R Capper; 4 E.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa Johannis de Deo (Haydn); 11.30 M, Britten in C; 3 E, Stanford in A flat.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Sumsion in B flat; 11.15 Euch, Christus factus est (Anerio); 3 E, Walmisley in D; 5.45 Organ recital: Simon Over; 6.30 ES, Rev J Goodall.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 Mass; 10.30 Sol Mass; 12 Mass; 2.45 Organ recital; 3.30 Sol V & B, Magnificat primi toni (Victoria); 5.30, 7 Mass.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, Jackson in G; 3.30 E, Dyson in D, Archdeacon of Basingstoke.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa festiva (Peeters), Canon G Webster; 11.30 Ch M, The Lamentation (Bairstow); 4 E Ch E, Dyson in D, Bishop K O'Brien.

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Jesu the very thought of Thee (Bairstow), Bishop of Bedford; 11 M; 12.15 HC; 6.30 E, Jackson in G.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Jackson in G; 6.30 Ch E, A: Lamentations of Jeremiah (Tallis).

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Denbighshire: 8 HC; 11 Ch M, A: A Gaelic blessing (Rutter); 3.30 EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, Pembrokeshire: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11.15 Ch Euch, Ireland in C; 6 Ch E.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, St Edmundsbury mass (Horne); 11.30 HC; 3.30 Ch E, Darke in F.

ST FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL, Cork: 8 Euch; 11.15 Ch Euch; Rev E W Hunter; 7 Ch E, Brewer in D.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10 LM; 11.30 Sol Mass, O quam gloriosum (Victoria), 5 Stations of the cross; 6 LM.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Rev D K Robertson; 11.30 MS; 6 Lenten address and music; 8 ES, Rev I K Stiven.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Panis angelicus (Franck); 3.30 Ch E, Purcell in G minor; 6.30 compline.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 M, Hewson in E, Rev A J Grimason; 12.15 Euch; 3.15 Ch E, Sumsion in A; 4.20 Organ recital: David Leigh.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.30 S Euch, Missa sancti Dominici (Rubbra); 3.15 E, Gloucester service (Howells); 5 Organ recital: Huw Williams; 6 ES, Rev S Oliver.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Mozart in F, Rev I Davies; 5.15 LM; 6 E & B, Stanford in G, Rev M Starkey.

ALL SOULS, W1: 8, 9.30, 11.30 C, Rev R Trist; 6.30 EP, Rev P Blackham.

THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11 Missa brevis (Seiber).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M, A: A litany (Walton), Rev Dr P Elvy; 6 E, Mr D Royce.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 HC, Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM; 12.30 LM; 4.15 Mass; 6.15 LM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS, Rev N Lee; 5, 7.30 Informal Service.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street: 8.45 Euch; 11 S Euch, Stanford in B, Rev L Urwin.

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa scala aretina (Valls); 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B, Novit Dominus (Lechner); 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 MP, Rev E Fletcher; 6.30 EP.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev H G Anderson; 7 Jazz Vespers, Rev P D Semiege.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa sicut lilium inter spinas (Palestrina); 6.30 E.

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch Euch, Darke in E; 6.30 Ch E, Fifth service (Tomkins).

ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11 Ch Euch, Schubert in G, Rev R Noble.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11, Very Rev J H McIndoe; 6.30, Very Rev W A Cairns.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, EC1: 11 S Mass, Mozart in C minor.

ST GEORGE'S, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Sumsion in F, The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, John Paul.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens: 10.30 S Euch, Sparrow mass (Mozart), Rev A Meldrum; 6 Ch E, Farrant in A minor.

ST JAMES'S, W1: 9.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Canon J Millard; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 Family Service, Fantasia in G minor (Bach); 6.30 HC.

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, How lovely are thy dwellings (Brahms); 6.30 E.

ST MARK'S, NW1: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch.

ST MARGARET'S, SW1: 11 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor, Rt Rev H Montefiore.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev J Wooton; 11.30 Visitors Service; 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W8: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 Ch M; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E.

ST MARY'S, SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM, Mozart in D minor, The Bishop of London; 6 Sol E.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, NW3: 10.30 Euch, Collegium regale (Howells).

ST MARYLEBONE, NW1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa à l'ombre d'ung buissonet (Brumel).

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Sol Euch, Messe basse (Fauré), Ven B Jacob.

ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa choralis (Liszt).

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Purcell in B flat, Canon K Peters.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Remember not Lord our offences (Purcell), Ven F Bentley.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Sumsion in B flat; 3.30 E.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley St, W1: 11 S Euch, Gott ist mein Hirt (Schubert).

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, A: O love how deep (Bach).

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Salvator mundi (Tallis), The Master.

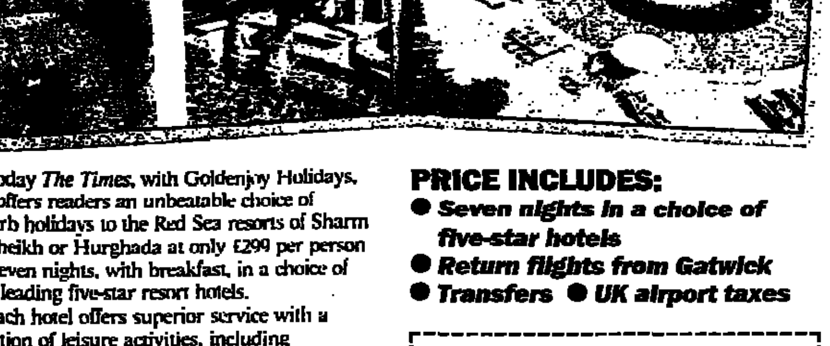
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Lift thine eyes (Mendelssohn), Band of the Irish Guards; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Darke in A minor.

● *Compiled by Deborah King.*

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CHANGING TIMES

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WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

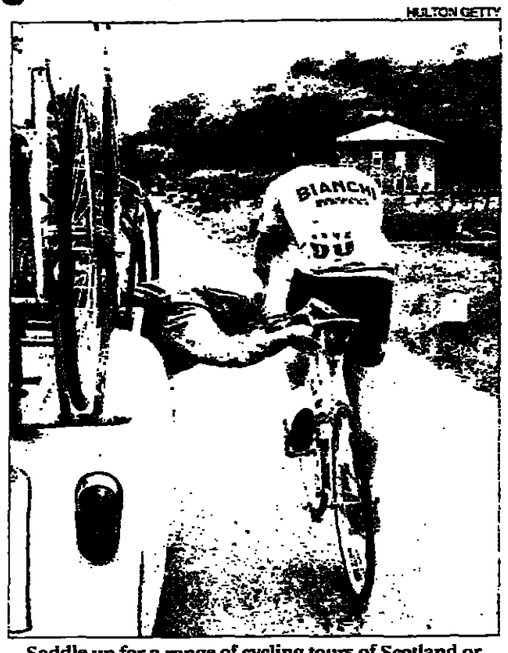
Get into some funny business

KINEMA COLLECTION



On the set of the classic Ealing comedy *The Lavender Hill Mob*. Learn the stories behind the scenes at the British studio, April 3-5, in Chichester

HULTON GETTY



Saddle up for a range of cycling tours of Scotland or East Anglia, April 10-13, for £75 all-inclusive

MARCH 27-29

Coarse fishing. At Ward Mill Cottage, Winkleigh, Devon (01502 501515). On a three-acre lake, dinghy provided, games room available. From £45 per person, dogs welcome.

The cottage garden: Slavery, seamen and smugglers, the trade of the West Country ports, 1600-1850: Music in Vienna, 1890-1945: Giants, dragons and pixies, West Country legends and folklore: A Greek experience. A selection of courses at Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 55866). Residential prices from £110. Daily rates from £24.

Italian weekend: Spanish weekend. At the *Brasshouse* Language Centre, Sheepcote Street, Birmingham (0121-643 0114). Price £89 per course.

Laugh and be well: Dr Johnson got it wrong: Quilting: Silk-screen printing. All this weekend at the Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, Wales (01495 333777). Prices from £58-98 inclusive.

The demon drink, a social history of the English pub: The history of portraiture: Animal magic. At Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Lincs (01933 312104). Price £89 per course.

Chinese seafood cookery: Bridge for improvers: Dance for fitness and fun: Repairing and restoring china. At the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). From £142 residential, £98 non-residential.

Writing for radio, writing dialogue, writing full stop: Reading post-colonial writing: Greeks and Romans around the Bay of Naples. All this weekend at the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £120 per course, inclusive.

APRIL 3-5

Rescue and emergency care. A useful course for hill-walkers, climbers and lovers of the great outdoors. At the Castle Head Field Centre, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria (015395 34300). From £127.

Wildlife gardening for families: Suffolk's medieval houses: Improve your watercolours: Painting and drawing for families. At the Flatford Mill Centre, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). From £82.

Haute cuisine and clay pigeon shooting. At Congham Hall, King's Lynn, Norfolk (01485 600250). Try a day in the kitchen with Stephanie Moon and her brigade, and take a two-hour clay-pigeon shooting lesson, guns and cartridges provided. From £230 per person, dinner and B&B included.

Birdwatching for beginners. At the Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking, Surrey (01306 883849). From £111 residential, £85 non-residential.

Making longbows. Course on the weapon of the Hundred Years War, at Barn Crafts, Fincham, Norfolk (01366 347841). From £30.

British film studios: a history of Ealing Studios, with film clips from famous Ealing comedies: Chocolates and treats for Easter: The countryside in early spring. At the Earnley Concourse, Chichester West Sussex (01243 670392). Residential £148, £98 non-residential.

Landscape painting: Birdwatching: Flower arranging: Basket making: Pottery: plus activities from white-water rafting to abseiling. At locations in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, with Acorn Activities (01432 830083). From £45 a day to £375 a weekend.

Jane Austen and Bath: Wagner and Parsifal. At Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 55866). From £90-£115.

Life in a medieval castle: Drawing from models. At the Wedgwood Memorial College, Stoke-on-Trent (01782 372105). From £70.

APRIL 10-13

A taste of gardening in Leicester. Activities include a visit to an EcoHouse, for a study of organic gardening, and a visit to Barnsdale Gardens, home of the late TV gardener Geoff Hamilton. Leicester Promotions (0116-254 7400). From £210 per person.

Gliding. Soar over the Cotswolds in a two-seater glider with the Bristol and Gloucester Gliding Club (01453 860342). Trial flights from £20; accommodation available.

Scottish and East Anglia cycling breaks. From Blairgowrie, Perthshire and Framlingham and Woodbridge in Suffolk. Anglia Cycling Holidays (01250 876100). Cycles, B&B accommodation and vegetarian meals available. Children over ten welcome. From £75 for three days.

Easter getaway. At the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Yoga, walking, swimming, croquet, musical evenings and line dancing. From £277 residential, £193 non-residential.

Easter walking in Constable country. From the Flatford Mill Studies Centre, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). From £105 residential, £82 non-residential.

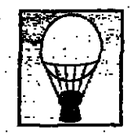
Easter landscape painting: Learning to paint with watercolours: Writing poetry: Drawing and design. Among the courses on offer during Easter at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890296). From £159 residential, £69 non-residential.

Family naturalist and bird weekend: Castles and strongholds near Shrewsbury: Sketching and painting. All this weekend with the Field Studies Council, Shrewsbury (01743 850380). Price from £75-£105, inclusive.

Basic blacksmithing: Colour photography: Traditional drawing techniques. All this weekend at the West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). From £150 inclusive.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

FLIGHT WINNER



THE answer to last week's Mother's Day competition is Pilâtre de Rozier and Marquis d'Arlandes. The winner of a voucher for a hot-air balloon flight for two is M. Alner of Wokingham, Berkshire.

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AC Cobra LWT, (90S), 500 miles, £47,500. Chichester Blue/Magnolia Leather. Gwypaul 01509 232233.

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SPIDER, Lusso 2.0, Red, alarm, alloys, nilecon, 3.5K miles, £22,995. Tel: 01494 766874

ALFA ROMEO

ALFA ROMEO 2L GTV, 16 valve, twin spark with Lusso Pack. Black jthr. 1997 P reg. Met Tropical Green. s/c 18,500 mls. 1 owner. FSH. Mint condition. £18,750 ono. 01282 611260.

GTV Lusso, Protrun Red, P reg, 5,000 miles, absolute bargain. £19,250. 01203 502783

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DB7 Volante Auto (97P), BRG / Magnolia Hide, Speedline, CD Stack, 6,000 mls, £78,500. Gwypaul 01509 232233.

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DB7 Volante, 98R, Manual, 4,500 miles, BRG with cream/piped green seating, CD, Sports exhaust, Rubbish. £50,000. Tel: 0468 77072[illegible]

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528i SE

Auto, Steptronic, 96N, Oxford green, Sand beige leather, FBMWSH, 50,000 miles. Elec glass sunroof, Rain sensor, GTS, Multi function steering wheel with cruise. Top Hi-Fi, CD. Air Con. Alloys. £25,995.

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M3 EVOLUTION

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1.9, alloys, leather, chrome, 12 mths old, fabulous, private plate. £22,000.

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750 iL

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325i SE

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NEW 728i BMW.

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525i ASE

December 95, N reg, 15,000 miles, Orient blue with grey leather interior. Wood trim. On board computer. Electric seats, Sunroof, CL, Full electric alarm. 6 track CD. FSH. £22,500.

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320i Convertible,

96P, electric hood, grey leather seats, Montreal Blue, Blue hood, twin airbags, CD, BMW alarm, 40k mls, de-badged. As new.

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NATIONWIDE DELIVERY

Even if the Chancellor's budget plan to improve rural bus services works, it will backfire by causing even more damage to embattled village shops

Don't go to town with Mr Brown

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



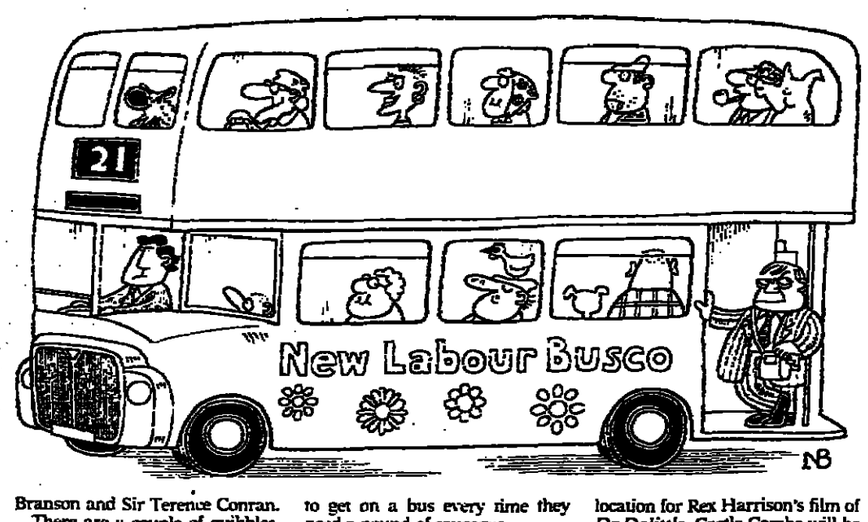
Peter Barnard

One of the abiding images from the work of Morecambe and Wise comes from a tribute programme that compiled all the appearances by the pair's guests, titled, *I worked with Morecambe and Wise and look what it did for me*. The image is of André Previn dressed in a bus conductor's uniform, lurching about on the platform of a Routemaster.

The segment came into my mind while I watched Gordon Brown deliver his Budget speech. Odd how such things can affect different people in different ways: I was reminded of Morecambe and Wise, whereas my youngest daughter, aged nine, clearly had some other entertainment in mind: she returned from school while Brown was speaking, to ask: "Is this a video you're watching?"

The notion of a speech by Brown as something one might rent from Blockbuster's is somewhat fanciful: Mel Gibson he ain't. However, the Budget may not have been very entertaining but it was widely welcomed and much of it sounded quite imaginative to me, including the bit about £50 million being spent by the Government to improve rural bus services. Spread across the 19 per cent of rural households that do not have a car, £50 million would scarcely buy the bus driver a uniform, but not much is better than nothing: the Tories have nothing to jeer about.

The rural bus services announced by Brown will be under the aegis of John Prescott. I see Prescott in the Previn role, leaning from the Routemaster's platform to sweep up old ladies en route to the shops and scowling at yobs who might have the effrontery to squirt water at him. Brown, a steadier type, will be in the cab, driving in the middle of the road. New Labour BusCo (NLB) will have vehicles that run on lean-burn engines (no diesel here) and the exterior will be decorated in bright, but tasteful, reds and yellows. NLB will have the feel of being designed by Richard Branson and Sir Terence Conran.



There are a couple of quibbles. Those of us who think that a village ought to be an activity centre not a mausoleum have long argued that giving villages a proper transport system is only half the story: there is also a dire and pressing need to encourage businesses into the villages themselves rather than forcing villagers to get on a bus every time they need a pound of sausages.

No one is expecting Sainsbury's to open up in Little Drizzle Under Skye, but villages devoid of commerce are simply dead. They may flicker an eyelid when a film crew turns up, but that is about it. Indeed, I used to live a couple of miles from Castle Combe in Wiltshire, probably best known as the location for Rex Harrison's film of *Dr Dolittle*. Castle Combe will be full of visitors today: it is every weekend, winter and summer. They have come to see . . . nothing. They are attracted to a rural Britain frozen in time, a place where you can buy a postcard but not much else. That kind of village is not part of the solution, it is part of the problem.

So to spend £50 million helping people travel from such places to somewhere that might have a discernible pulse will help mobility but it will not attack the deeper malaise. Rural businesses are closing at a frightening rate. Some of them deserve little sympathy, given their absurd opening-hours policy: they open at 9am when all the customers have gone to work, close at 1pm when their customers have lunch, re-open at 2pm when the customers return to work, and close again when the customers leave work in the evening.

But many of them work hard, and would open more if they could afford staff: Brown's National Insurance measures may help there. Those businesses also need the sort of help Chancellors are supposed to deliver but rarely do, including a much higher VAT threshold and other measures that would cut down paperwork and help them be more competitive.

The characteristic solitary shop that survives in many villages will not be helped by hearing Prescott shout "all aboard" from the bus stop outside their door, thus taking away the customers. Mind you, the notion of a bus that has any kind of conductor is exciting enough, let alone the possibility of it being John Prescott. Ting-a-ling.

How Ford rallies to the cause of the ordinary motorist

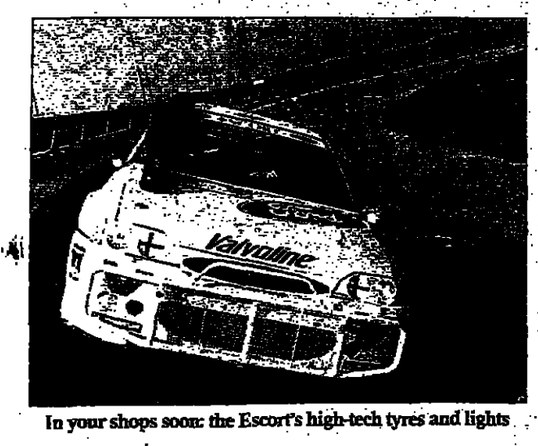
The world champion's Escort is also a testbed for new ideas, Vaughan Freeman finds

More than three times more powerful than the humble Escort it is based on, Ford's awesomely fast rallygoing Escort will spend much of this week flying sideways through a dust storm at the Portuguese Rally which starts tomorrow.

At the wheel will be four-times world champion Juha Kankkunen, rallying's most successful driver ever, piloting a car that in many respects is more technically advanced than Formula One's racers.

Yet how does the ordinary motorist benefit from the millions of pounds Ford pours each year into its rallying programme? And what can Kankkunen's car, with a 300bhp 2-litre engine, permanent four-wheel drive and six-speed sequential gearbox, possibly have in common with the 113,000 Escorts sold each year in the UK?

To find out, Ford dusted off Kankkunen's precious world rally Escort, and handed it over to *The Times*. The car is ferociously noisy, and heads were soon peering out of office block windows 300m away. Inside there is a surprising amount of head and legroom. The clutch is very heavy, which was my excuse for stalling it straight away, but on the go it is an irrelevance. The driver needs only to move the gearlever back to change up, and forward to change down, without lifting off the throttle.



In your shops soon: the Escort's high-tech tyres and lights

The dashboard is electronic, and a turn of a dial can instantly call up more than 100 different items of information; from the pressures in the tyres to the temperatures of the engine's four cylinders.

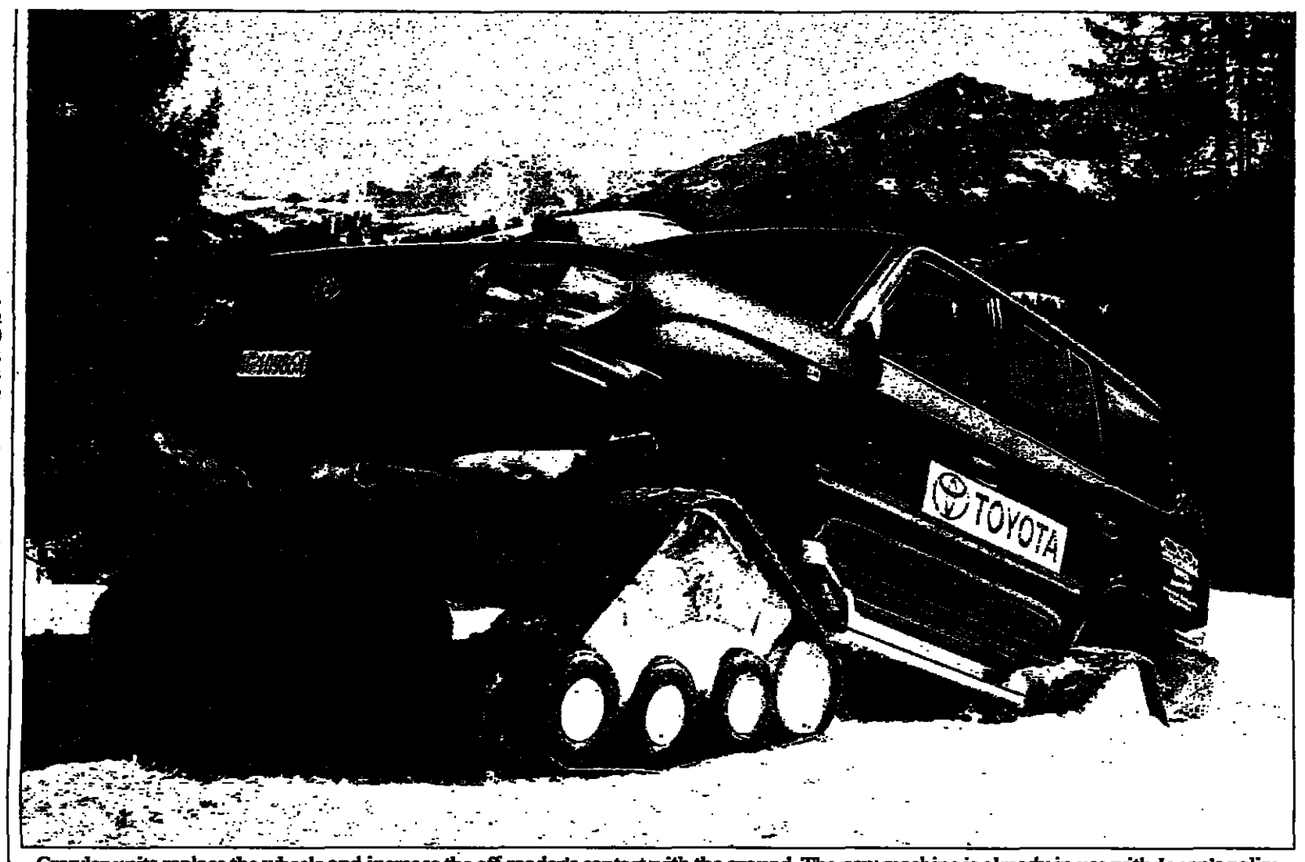
The rallying tyres squirm on the concrete track, but the car seems to leap ahead on hard acceleration, and under heavy braking it bobs around.

It is massively entertaining. But is it relevant? Ford says rallying is the world's toughest laboratory for their new car development, and that advances in rally cars translate into more fuel-efficient, safer, environmentally cleaner and more easily serviced cars.

For instance, the rally car does without bulbs, using instead gas-discharge units that work like a neon tube. The high-intensity illumination is then focused using lenses, creating smaller, much more powerful headlamps. They are set to feature in showroom cars within two years.

The car's computerised electronic engine management has already transferred to the current range of Kas and Cougars. The cable linking the accelerator pedal and the engine has disappeared, replaced by "drive-by-wire" technology. Pressing the throttle sends an electronic message to the engine's management system telling it how much fuel to feed in. This technology is already available on, of all things, Ford's diesel-engined Transit van.

The next big breakthrough will be the introduction of tyres the Ford rally team already uses, which are filled with a mousse that automatically repairs rips and holes.



Crawler units replace the wheels and increase the off-roader's contact with the ground. The new machine is already in use with Japan's police

Land Cruiser makes it cool to crawl

Alan Copps on a Toyota happy on snow, ice and Tarmac

TOYOTA'S Land Cruiser has earned itself a reputation as one of the toughest off-roaders around. But in wheeled form, even the Land Cruiser couldn't cope with the task facing the organisers of the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan last month. How do you get across fresh snow above the kind of precipitous slope prepared for a ski race?

This weird-looking vehicle is the answer: the Toyota Crawler, a Land Cruiser fitted with the kind of tracks that would grace an Antarctic expedition. But unlike specialist snowmobiles, it remains capable of running on muddy roads with melting snow or even on conventional roads with ice.

It is already being used by the Japanese police. Now Toyota is carrying out a market study before deciding whether the vehicle should go on sale. The company believes it could be used for expeditions, rescue operations on ski slopes and leisure activities.

But perhaps the most surprising feature of the Crawler is that it can be driven without special training. The steering, accelerator, gearbox and braking systems are all the same as a standard Land Cruiser, even the anti-lock brakes still operate.

The key to this versatility is the crawler units, which replace each wheel and increase the ground-contact area, reducing pressure sufficiently to create traction on the softest and most slippery surfaces. It is at its best on soft snow, where it can travel at up to 20mph, although it can reach 50mph on paved roads.

The modifications increase the height, width and weight, although length is the same. The turning circle is increased dramatically, but that is not crucial on open snow.

The Crawler attracted a lot of attention at the recent Geneva Motor Show as a vehicle ideal for specialist use in Alpine conditions. But inside it shares the same high standard of comfort and driveability as the Land Cruiser you could win in our current competition.

● *Win a Land Cruiser, see page 21*

THE TIMES Lease Plan Company Car Driver 1998

Entry Form

THE TIMES Lease Plan Company Car Driver 1998

ABOUT YOUR COMPANY

Name of entrant: ..... *Position:* ..... *Signature:* .....
NB: Entrant should be the director/senior manager responsible for the company's car fleet

Company name: .....

Address: .....

Post code: ..... *Tel number:* ..... *Fax number:* .....

Nature of business: ..... *Number of employees:* ..... *Number of company cars:* .....

NOMINATED DRIVERS

	Surname	Forename	Job title	Age	Points on licence (max 9)
1					
2					
3					
4	(reserve)				

WHICH VENUE?

Please select your 1st and 2nd choice location/date of regional heat (indicate 1 or 2 in box):

Nottingham	Friday, 17 April	☐
Macclesfield, Cheshire	Friday, 24 April	☐
Elstree, Herts	Friday, 8 May	☐
Coventry	Friday, 15 May	☐
Shepperton, Middx	Friday, 29 May	☐
Swindon	Friday, 5 June	☐

You must ensure that entrant and nominated drivers are available for both first and second choice dates and for the final at Silverstone on Friday, 26 June 1998. Initial qualification may be by telephone questionnaire. Entrants and drivers will be contacted on an individual basis.

● *Competition rules*

The closing date for entries is 24 March 1998. Drivers must be 24 years of age and over to enter. Only corporate entries will be accepted. Drivers must be nominated by the registered owner (the director or senior manager responsible for the company car fleet. Drivers must be nominated in terms of rings. The entrant may also nominate himself/herself as part of the team. Companies can only field one team to compete. Employees of rival motor company car or vehicle as part of their remuneration package. Qualification for the team/company award will be dependent upon a written test, to be completed [illegible] the event. Employees of Lease Plan DriveTech, Alfaseal, The Silverstone Driving Centre and Mawa International are not permitted to enter. In the spirit of the competition, competitors [illegible] organisations such as driver training companies, any employees of vehicle leasing and contract hire companies, any person having an Advanced Driving [illegible] the event. The closing date for the regional heats will be confirmed in writing, at least ten days prior to the heat. In the event of [illegible] the regional heats will be formed through a random ballot. Any entrant who is unable to compete in the regional heat should one of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the event of a finalist not being able to compete in the final, a reserve driver will be invited to compete. The winner will be chosen by a combination of driver telephone questionnaire. If the team does not qualify, the entrant will be informed in writing prior to the heat. Feedback on each driver's performance will be given upon at the regional heat. Should one of the first three drivers be unable to compete in the event of a finalist not being able to compete in the final, a reserve driver will be invited to compete. The winner will be chosen by a combination of driver telephone questionnaire and their performance in the regional heats. The telephone questionnaire will be held in the week commencing 20 April 1998. The prize for the winner will be a special trip for two to the Italian Grand Prix. The team/company prize will be a driver [illegible] and the use of a chosen vehicle for a period of three months. Cash alternatives are not available. A list of winners in each heat and at the final is available from Lease Plan upon request.

Once you have completed this form, fax it back to Lease Plan on 01753 620676

or post to Marketing Dept, Lease Plan, Thames Side, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1TY. For further information call Lease Plan on 01753 797284

COMPANY CAR DRIVER OF THE YEAR

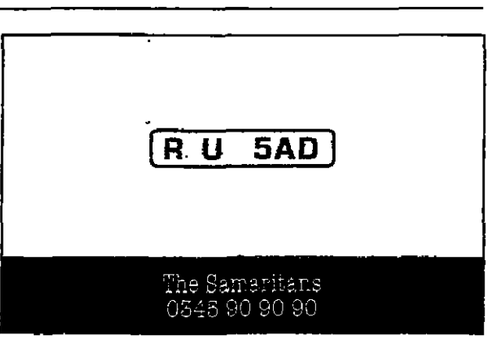
The name Silverstone is synonymous with speed. But there's a lot more going on at the home of the British Grand Prix than motor racing, and the final of *The Times*/Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year competition is a great opportunity to find out more — and to experience the famous race-track for yourself.

For Silverstone also houses the Driving Centre, at Stowe — a circuit inside the main track where racers are trained to drive fast and ordinary motorists are trained to drive safely. Run with the help of former British Grand Prix winner John Watson, it is one of the most sophisticated driving schools in the country.

The finalists in our competition will try their skill on the fiendish skid car, face a familiarisation test to judge how quickly they can adapt to a new car — changing from a Nissan Micra to a powerful sports model on the Stowe circuit. They will also be given a road-driving appraisal and get the chance to prove they can drive on the rough stuff on the specially constructed off-road course, which is one of the centre's latest attractions.

If all that sounds a far cry from the life of the average motorway-cruising company car driver, then remember that by the time they reach the Silverstone final, our contestants will already have achieved the highest standard at one of our six regional heats. We will need to put them in a few extreme situations to find out just who is the overall winner and who should have our top prize of a trip for two to the Italian Grand Prix.

In the past five years, our competition has attracted teams of three from companies great and small. It is dedicated to improving the standard of company driving and raising awareness within companies of the need for driver training. But above all, for the keen driver it is an enjoyable challenge. To enter, fill in the adjacent form. The closing date has now been extended to April 8.



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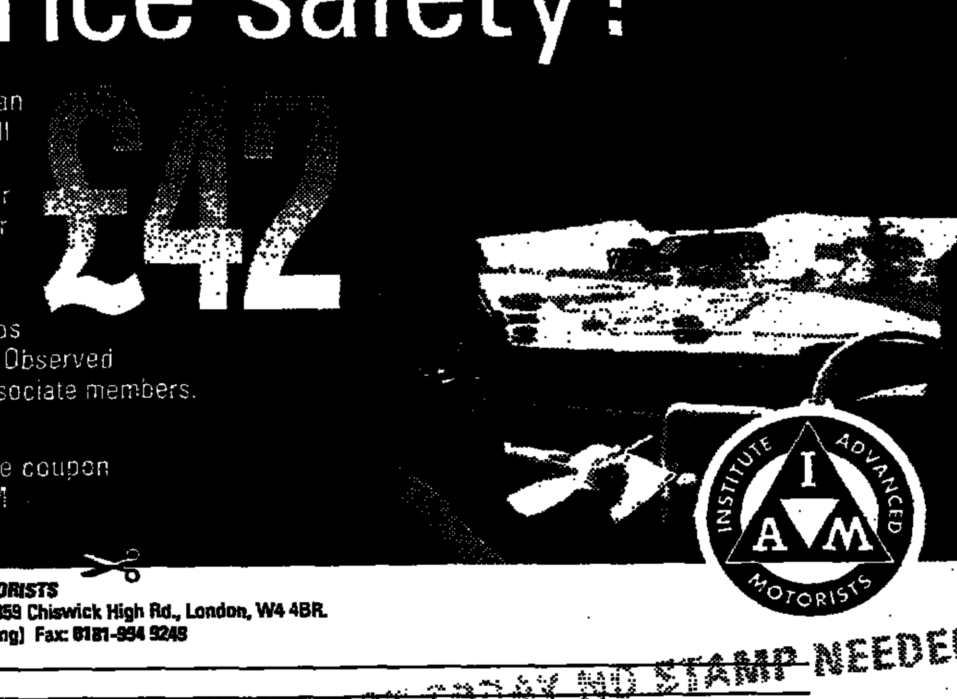
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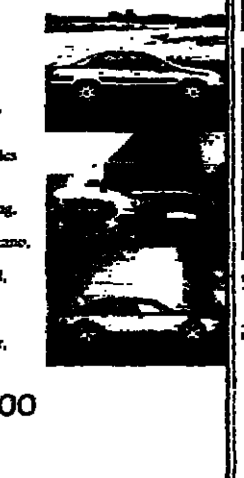
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97R Audi A4 1.8 SE Avant, Volcano, 8,000 miles
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97R Audi 2.6E Convertible. Volcano Black, anthracite leather/cloth s/seats, power hood, sports s/wheel, walnut, w/deflector, 17" 10 spokes, 5,260mls £29,995

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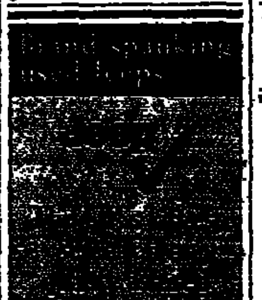
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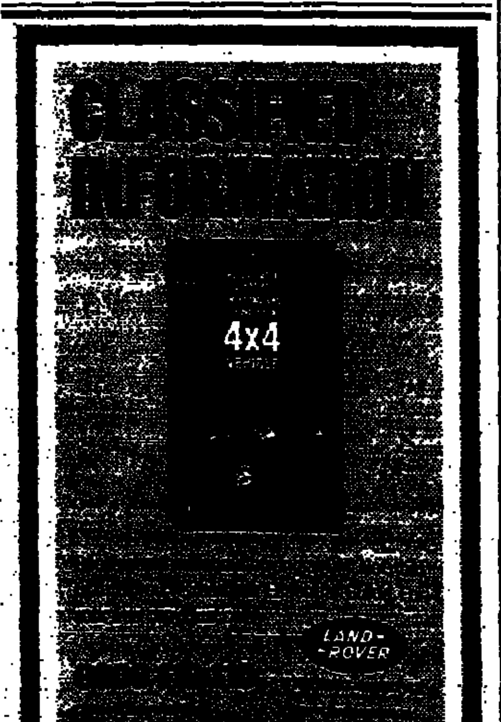
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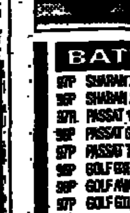
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663 BAR	1,800	FF 8771	1,500	JL 34	2,500	11 PJF	3,800
82 BOB	4,200	417 FG	1,800	KA 7792	2,800	7 PW	10,000
50 CLM	2,800	FK 6304	1,300	KDL 353	900	RAP 40X	600
COE 947V	325	FPW 872	750	350 KMF	1,600	RBR 938	1,145
CTE 77	1,400	FRY 22	4,000	KVG 911A	500	RC 5	15,000
DA 9778	1,500	898 FUB	750	LAZ 40	1,500	RB 750	800
944 DBC	1,200	GIL 59	2,500	914 LG	1,700	RON 856	3,000
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2265 DD	1,300	GJK 886	1,000	LJK 288	1,400	6886 SM	5,600
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A115 TER	44 BA	22 CN	100 DV	1 FSP	5 HAH	1 JFG	1 LJF	11 OE	RJC 3	SSB 2
A5 HLY	11 BAK	COL 11S	51 DW	123 FT	35 HAK	11 JGM	51 LKY	123 OK	RJE 10	SSH 2
17 AA	BAK 3D	3 COS	53 E	FUN 1S	HAS 11	JHB 11	51 LL	5 OLD	RJM 111	1 SSJ
35 AB	BAS 11L	28 CP	E1 RYL	13 FW	66 HAW	11 JHS	40 LM	ONE 111L	RJS 3	2 SSM
155 AC	BAS 83T	2 CPM	E1 VED	70 G	13 HB	24 JJ	LOV 3S	5 ONG	33 RK	2 SSP
5 ACK	80 BB	2 CPS	E1 WYN	G1 FFD	51 HC	123 JK	44 LP	15 OO	34 RL	SSS 333
21 AD	2 BBS	55 CR	E111 OTS	G10 LAS	33 HD	121 JL	88 LR	101 OR	123 RM	16 ST
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14 AJS	45 BH	D11 CKS						3 PAS	1 RSD	88 TG
18 AK	55 BJ	D4 NDY	7 EDS				44 LYN	28 PAT	3 RSG	222 TH
AKR 11M	5 BJC	D4 NNY	21 EE				71 M	55 PB	2 RSJ	1 THB
44 AL	45 BK	D4 REN	321 EF				M4 SON	41 PC	2 RSL	911 TJF
ALF 11E	33 BL	D4 VEY	123 EG				70 MA	PCC 1	2 RSR	4 TJK
ALL 150N	BLU 3S	20 DA	EGG 3D	53 GA	555 HG	JON 4S	555 MAC	90 PD	3 RSS	2 TJM
6 ALS	51 BM	2 DAK	16 EH	2 GAS	15 HH	JOS 55	MAM 4S	1 PFH	RSW 2	30 TK
ALV 111S	10 BO	DAN 13L	123 EJ	GAY 111A	11 HHH	30 JP	MAR 50N	2 PGC	33 RT	13 TL
ALY 50N	BON 50N	15 DAV	1 EJL	31 GB	1 HHS	JPS 321	MAT 50N	7 PHG	RUS 53L	66 TM
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AMJ 11D	BOX 3R	DBS 8	3 ELS	24 GC	51 HL	786 JS	1 MBY	2 PJK	51 S	31 TOM
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AMR 11T	24 BR	1 DCC	18 EN	51 GD	HOE 1T	2 JSH	18 MD	2 PJP	51 SAM	20 TR
AMU 51N	33 BS	34 DD	ENT 1E	2 GDS	HOG 2	JSJ 2	22 ME	3 PJT	19 SB	51 TS
211 AN	1 BSD	2 DDS	ERF 1L	12 GE	15 HOW	1 JSL	19 MF	PLE 4S	1 SCP	2 TSB
ANN 11S	BSL 2	25 DE	1 ESF	2 GEB	19 HR	4 JSM	33 MG	23 PM	32 SD	50 TT
ANN 150N	19 BT	22 DEB	11 ESS	8 GEF	44 HS	JSS 555	800 MGB	5 POR	2 SDS	TUL 1N
ANN 4S	BUN 50N	21 DEE	8 EST	GEM 88	101 HW	2 JSW	899 MGF	POS 3R	14 SE	TUN 3S
511 ANS	27 BW	21 DEL	11 EWS	GEN 351S	56 HY	13 JT	2 MGM	31 PR	SEA 50N	50 TVR
51 ANT	5 BX	2 DEM	F13 LDS	70 GF	70 J	30 JW	33 MH	PRE 50N	SEN 50R	21 TW
18 AP	51 C	40 DEN	F14 SHY	1 GFP	J4 CKY	K3 LLY	45 MJ	2 PRM	2 SEW	50 TWO
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2 ASD	C4 SEY	23 DJ	FAT 1E	23 GK	JAS 25	14 KK	2 MSW	53 PW	1 SHC	8 VW
2 ASG	23 CA	2 DJL	FAX 3D	123 GL	786 JAT	123 KL	15 N	R1 NGO	2 SHD	51 W
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2 ASW	35 CB	555 DJS	51 FD	25 GN	2 JBG	KSJ 1	1 NCD	2 RAD	1 SJG	5 WAT
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2 AUD	555 CCC	22 DM	51 FF	35 GP	44 JCB	L1 VER	33 NH	222 RAY	3 SJW	WEL 4D
99 AW	5 CCS	10 DMS	22 FH	55 GR	100 JCM	L4 URA	51 NJ	RAY 1T	51 SK	2 WES
2 AWS	22 CD	17 DN	15 FJ	111 GRP	14 JCR	55 LA	1 NJR	41 RB	1 SKB	100 WHO
81 B	2 CDK	DOB 50N	13 FK	81 GS	44 JD	33 LB	51 NK	23 RC	SKS 300	55 WM
B15 HOP	30 CE	26 DR	22 FL	2 GSD	100 JDB	51 LC	101 NL	11 RD	22 SL	12 WN
B15 SET	17 CF	23 DS	1 FLS	2 GSH	99 JDM	53 LD	41 NM	RDS 2	5 SLK	WPS 2
B3 ANO	13 CG	2 DSB	103 FM	3 GSM	2 JDR	5 LDS	6 NOW	51 RE	2 SLR	1 WRD
B3 NNY	24 CH	1 DSC	FOS 51L	51 GT	JDS 1	51 LE	66 NP	REA 50N	300 SM	51 X
B4 CON	CHA 5E	1 DSG	FOW 13R	1 GTP	15 JE	LEA 51N	99 NR	51 RF	2 SMS	33 XX
B4 LDY	23 CJ	DSJ 2	33 FP	250 GTS	44 JEF	256 LEE	80 NS	80 RG	24 SP	80 Y
B4 XTR	3 CJS	2 DSL	15 FR	121 GW	JEM 111	LES 1Y	50 NT	RGL 2	3 SPS	
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All change at the British Museum

Capital museums · 29

THE TIMES TRAVEL

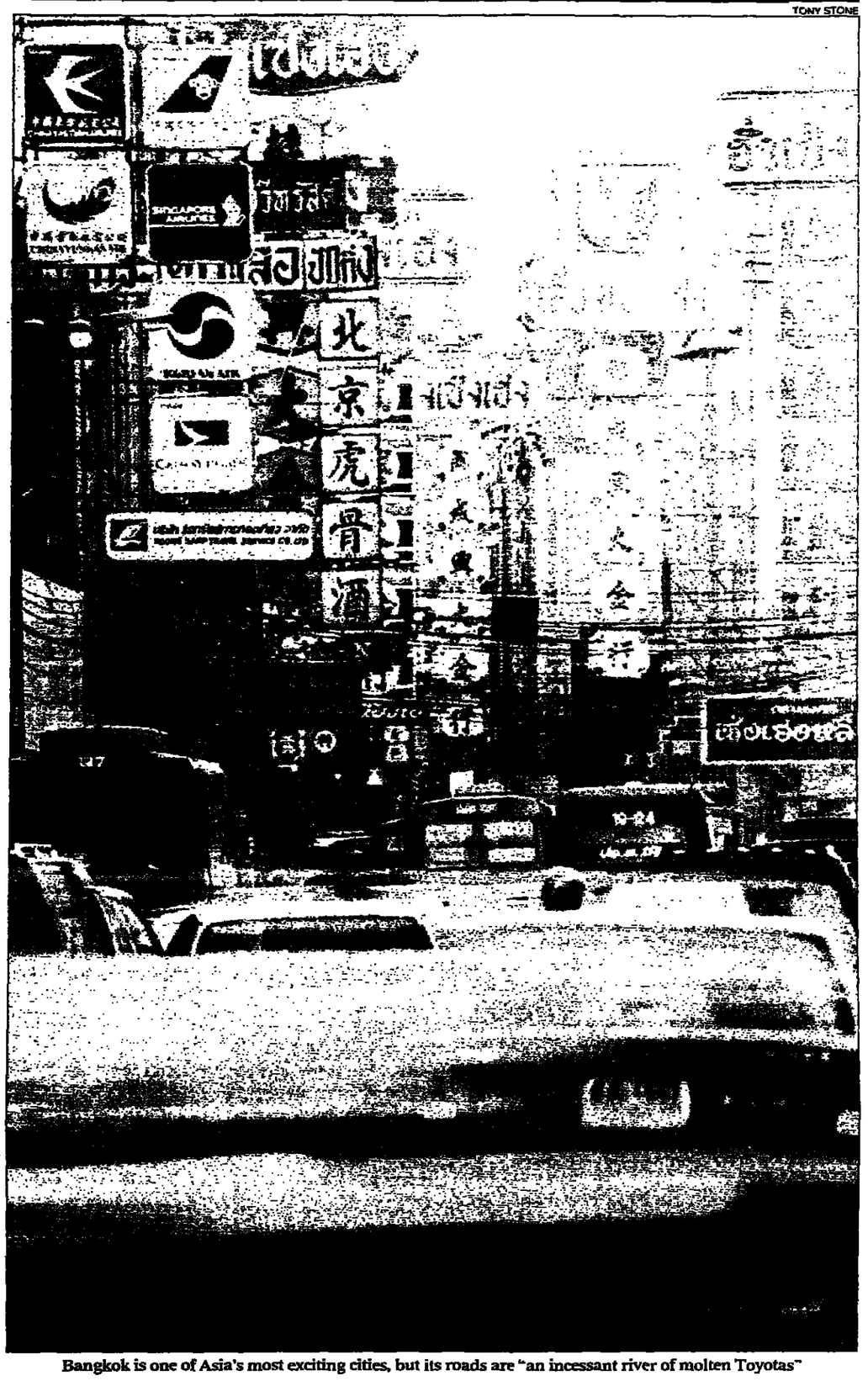
Walking in the right direction

Switzerland · 30, 31



Putting the car into reincarnation

Driving in Thailand means never having to say you're sorry, reports **Michael Booth**



TONY STONE

Bangkok is one of Asia's most exciting cities, but its roads are "an incessant river of molten Toyotas"

Reading the newspapers over breakfast was my first mistake. Colour shots of yesterday's road accidents are a staple of the front pages in Thai-language papers, and they don't mix well with fried eggs. I began to wonder whether my fly-drive holiday was such a good idea.

My hire car, a bronze Honda Civic, arrived at the hotel at 9am. I moaned at the people from Avis about its automatic transmission, but that was a symptom of my terror at the prospect of the fast-flowing expressway, three storeys above Bangkok. Even at midnight it was an incessant river of molten Toyotas.

The journey couldn't have begun less auspiciously. My hotel was 500 yards from the expressway, but it took me one-and-a-half hours (I'm not kidding) to join it.

Sunvil, the first British travel company to offer fly-drives to Thailand, had given comprehensive instructions, maps and advice for every step of the journey, but still a little voice in my head insisted on directions from a local. A wrong turn in this choked-up, gridlocked, mega-maze of a city adds half-an-hour to your trip. I felt an ulcer coming on. I finally fluked myself on to the expressway and the traffic and smog thinned: blue sky and banana trees appeared and hazy jungle hills lay ahead. I unclenched my buttocks for the first time.

The first day's drive to the Novotel beach resort at Hat Rim Pae, 150 miles from the capital in an area famous for its fruit and the odorous fish sauce, *nam pla*, passed smoothly. I dived — at a happy average of 60 miles per hour — with the best of them on well-surfaced dual-carriageway, changing lanes without warning and overtaking cars that were already overtaking others on blind bends.

The occasional sparkling and pointed temple caught my eye, only to be upstaged by often-palatial petrol stations (never more than a few miles apart: a fill-up for £4.50). And though at times it seemed as if I had driven into some absurd arcade game — mopeds carrying four or five passengers; low-slung pickups (a status symbol akin to a Mercedes in Thailand) loaded with durian fruit; and flatulent, kamikaze buses trailing dense diesel clouds, coming at me from all directions — I trusted that they knew what they were doing. *Driving in Thailand means* never having to say you're sorry, and never having to ask permission. Even the worst misdemeanour provokes no rebuke. It is simplistic to claim that, as Buddhists, Thais do not fear death as we do, and consequently drive less cautiously, but if you believe in reincarnation, overtaking on the brow of a hill may not seem so negligent.

That said, Thais *are* better drivers than us: more courteous and observant. They drive on the left though signals are interpreted differently: a left signal from the car ahead means it is safe to overtake. A right means it is not and an oncoming vehicle flashing its headlights means it is coming through, no matter what. All three and you should reach for your rosary.

I neglected to obey the flashing rule at the very last stage of the first day's driving, turning wearily right into the hotel car park across the bows of a vigorously flashing lorry. We avoided oblivion by the width of a cigarette paper.

The Novotel soothed me. Piped music aside, it is a blissfully quiet luxury resort and the perfect place to unwind after a long drive. The food, as you would expect from a place popular with French holidaymakers, was superb. The only complaint I heard was from a Marseilles couple whose red wine had arrived chilled.

I completed the second leg of my drive the next morning in good time. I travelled two hours east along the coast to the market town of Trat and arrived several hours early for the afternoon ferry to the National Marine Park island of Ko Chang. On a whim, I decided to drive to the Cambodian border, another couple of hours east. The smuggling of gems is common here and *Lonely Planet* advises lone travellers to be cautious. Fearing that I looked like a tourist, I removed my Avis sticker from the rear window. Malaria is more common here than in the rest of Thailand so I plastered myself with stinky repellent.

> It was as if I had driven into an absurd arcade game

The decision to press on was vindicated by the most stunning scenery yet. Sublime, deserted beaches lay on my right before a twinkling Gulf of Thailand, and on my left the hills of Cambodia. The roads were Romanesque, deserted and tree-lined.

Two miles before the border, I was halted by a police checkpoint. A fat toad of an official failed to conceal his surprise at seeing a white face, but lacked the English vocabulary to ask what on earth I was doing there. He confiscated my passport, just in case.

Should you want to enter Cambodia, you need a visa obtainable only in Bangkok. A day's drive beyond the border, assuming you dodge the bullets, is Phnom Penh. I bought an ice-cream from a startled stallholder and headed back to reclaim my passport.

I spotted my first backpackers at Laem Ngop (the jumping-off point for Ko Chang), the first Westerners I'd seen outside the Novotel, hanging on grimly to the back of a pick-up and weighed down heavily by monstrous packs. I turned up the air-conditioning.

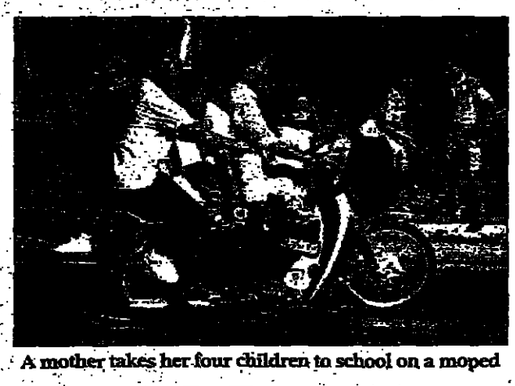
As the dilapidated wooden boat manoeuvred from the dock for the hour-long ride (£1) to Ko Chang, four young Americans sitting behind me wearing the traveller's uniform (sarongs, beads and sandals) were talking in loud Midwest accents, as grating as car alarms, boasting of the bargains they'd been shipping home. One said his teeth had been fixed in Cairo, his shirts made in Delhi and his trousers tailored in Kathmandu. But then his utopian veneer cracked as he patronisingly advised that you "couldn't connect emotionally" with Asians.

Ko Chang could well be the last sizeable unspoilt island in Thailand. Sufficiently far from the horrors of Pattaya and with no airstrip, you need to be fairly committed to reach it. There is little development, but you can hike to your heart's content in the rainforest. You won't find giant TV screens or discos on Ko Chang, and where I stayed, at the pleasantly basic Ko Chang Resort, most holiday-makers were Thai — always a good sign.

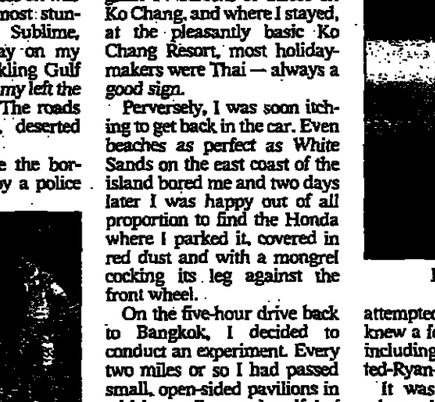
Perversely, I was soon itching to get back in the car. Even beaches as perfect as White Sands on the east coast of the island bored me and two days later I was happy out of all proportion to find the Honda where I parked it, covered in red dust and with a mongrel cocking its leg against the front wheel.

On the five-hour drive back to Bangkok, I decided to conduct an experiment. Every two miles or so I had passed small, open-sided pavilions in which usually sat a handful of resting or eating Thais. *Sala* aren't just bus stops, but places to relax and socialise. I wondered what the response would be if a *farang* dropped in, and was relieved that after a few frowns and shy giggles, one or two of the bolder men attempted to speak to me (one knew a few words of English, including "Manchester-United-Ryan-Giggs").

It was the middle of nowhere, the air felt like a hot towel on my face, and the only sound was the ticking of the Honda engine; the only communication inane grins all round. For me it epitomised the essence of Thai hospitality. I'd love to know what they said when I'd gone.



A mother takes her four children to school on a moped



HOW TO BOOK A THAILAND FLY-DRIVE

■ **Getting there:** Michael Booth travelled with Sunvil Holidays (0181-568 4499), which offers a fly-drive holiday, including two nights in Bangkok, three nights in Hat Rim Pae and two nights in Ko Chang (all B&B), for £1,092, based on two sharing, and available until July 10, when the price rises to £1,188. Car hire, transfers and flights from Gatwick included.

■ **Car hire:** Avis (0990 900500) has a week's all-inclusive hire from £222; Budget (0541 565656) has a week's all-inclusive from £190; Hertz (0990 906090) has a week's all-inclusive from £244. All prices for Group A cars from Bangkok airport.

■ **Changing money:** Buy your baht in Thailand as there's a shortage in Britain. The pound has almost doubled in value against the baht over the past year, so it's a great time to visit: a pair of Levi's jeans can cost as little as £8, a tailor-made suit £70 and a local beer £1 (see travel news, page 35).

■ **Best time to go:** Thailand's eastern seaboard is at its hottest and most pleasant during March, April and May. The peak of the rainy season is in July, August, September and October — it tends to be wettest in September, although throughout these months there are often dry spells. It can rain heavily (but not for long) around Bangkok during early autumn.

■ **Visas:** British passport holders do not need a visa for visits of 30 days or less.

■ **Driving licence:** To drive in Thailand, you will need an international driver's licence, available from the Automobile Association (0990 448866) for £4. Call to ask for an application form, then fill it in and return with a passport-sized photo and copies of your driver's licence and passport (allow three weeks). Or visit an AA shop with a photo and your documents to be issued a licence immediately.

■ **Driving tips:** Buy a good map as many of the road signs are only written in Thai and it is easy to get lost when you're off the beaten track. *Globetrotter Map of Thailand* (New Holland, £4.99) is recommended; available through book shops or call 0171-724 7773. Also make sure you have full insurance and that you have a breakdown number (most firms will respond to a call within four hours). And do not leave cameras, bags or any expensive items in view in cars — opportunist thieves might be tempted.

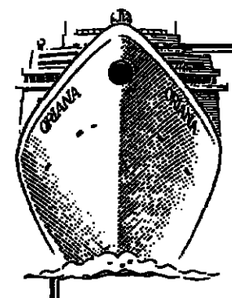
■ **Medical requirements:** Malaria is common in Trat province, the Cambodian border regions and Ko Chang — consult your GP.

■ **Recommended reading:** Lonely Planet's *Thailand's Islands and Beaches* guide: its map of the area around Hat Rim Pae proved invaluable for the last leg of the journey. (Published by Lonely Planet: £9.99.) *The Beach*, by Alex Garland (Penguin, £5.99), the novel that reminds you just how obnoxious backpackers can be.

■ **Further information:** Tourism Authority of Thailand information line (0839 306800, 49p a minute).



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SKI WEEKEND: THE SPEED MERCHANTS

Things can only get (even) faster

How quickly can skiers get down a mountain? As fast as they dare, says **Graham Duffill**



ADRIAN MYERS

If we are to ski beyond the 250kph barrier, new materials for skis and ski suits will be required. Merely changing the style of a helmet can affect the speed by 5kph



Fastest thing on two wheels

Kalevi Hakkinen clicked his battered Salomon ski boots into his 240cm yellow Fischer skis, pulled on a helmet, pointed the tips downhill and went. A slope of 45 degrees is considered severe for skiers, and beyond 55 degrees is generally considered unskiable. The slope which Haki, as the former Finnish downhill racer is known, went straight down has an angle of 66 degrees. Within two seconds he had passed 100kph (62.5mph); eight seconds later he was doing 124mph, nearly 200kph.

Haki was happy. His training run had gone well and, in the world championships in two weeks, he should easily exceed 200kph. And it was his birthday. He was 70.

Speed skiing proves that whatever physical barriers exist around man, he will try to beat them, however ludicrous that pursuit appears. We can fall from an aircraft at a maximum speed of 240kph, known as terminal velocity, but man has devised a way to ski at 243.902kph. No one knows where the human speed boundary lies but it looks as if the 250kph barrier will be broken before the end of the century. Ten years ago the world record was 20kph slower; Philippe Goitschel broke the 230kph barrier in 1993; Jeff Hamilton sped into the 240s in 1995 and Philippe Billy of France set the current record in 1997. Carolyn Curl, an American, put women into the 230kph zone last year.

Xavier Cousseau of France has the world record of 193.133kph for doing it with both feet stuck side by side on a monoski, and the Czechs Bauer and Lesak are world champions at doing it on the same pair of skis, like tandem cyclists. At 175.353kph you have to trust your partner not even to twitch.

Having seen one snowboarder fall, the Australian Darren Powell holds the record in what I would consider one of the most dangerous speed events. When Jeff Hamilton fell on his skis at 242kph as he crossed the timing line in last year's world championships at Les Arcs, his ski bindings did what they are designed to do and released. Hamilton was free to slide and tumble while his skis smashed into hundreds of pieces. "The skis exploded. There were pieces all over the timing area," said Jean-Jacques Laplace, director of the Club des Sports at Les Arcs. "I took the biggest piece home — it is about 10cm long."

When a snowboarder falls, his feet remain strapped to the board which digs in the snow and throws the rider around, twisting and turning his legs. To travel at 196.937kph standing sideways on a super-long snowboard, as Powell did, is asking for trouble.

The only activity crazier than this is riding mountain bikes down a speed skiing track. Six years ago Tommy Hellmerson, a Swede, did just that down a "Flying K" — as speed tracks were known in the days when speeds were measured over a kilometre. He managed 146kph (91.25mph). Bikers soon started to attack the bigger courses, including the steepest in the world, the Flying K at Les Arcs. They ride a standard mountain bike, usually customised with a single high gear to get started, an aerodynamic fairing and tyres with tiny, ice-gripping spikes. The rider wears a skin-tight latex suit, aerodynamic helmet and fins on the back of the calves to assist air flow.

The bike is held in a frame until he is mounted, feet clipped into the pedals and then released. The snow must be firmer than for skiing so bikers are used to early starts, with championships held at 9am. "It's a sport you have to really want to do," said Beat Engel of Switzerland, who was world champion in 1996. "It's early in the morning, it's cold, it's altogether tougher."

Engel was the first person to come close to riding a bike through the 200kph barrier in the 1996 championships. His foot released from one of the pedal clips in the timing zone. He exited on two wheels and hit a new record of 196.078kph before his free foot dragged him to the left of the track where the snow was softer and his front wheel dug in. He injured a foot, an ankle and a knee but is back with the "Beat Engel speed skiing and biking team" trying to win this year's world championship with his young Austrian rider Markus Stockl and also to beat Eric Barone's record of 210.896kph.

Of all snow events, speed skiing appears to be the one where youth confers the least advantage, as Haki showed, but experience does matter and nine-year-old Axel Joeres may one day reach the top. He started speed skiing at the age of six and, with a fastest speed of 141kph, he is the world's youngest speed skier — though he has a long way to go to beat the oldest speed skier.

If we are to go much beyond the 250kph barrier, we will require new materials for suits and ski bases. Merely changing the style of a helmet can affect the speed by 5kph.

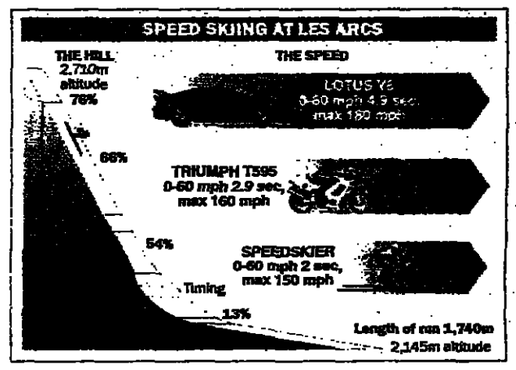
In the end, who goes fastest is determined mostly by material but also by mind. The skier has to have a low, wide tuck; elbows sit in front of knees, hands press together, weight is distributed evenly underfoot and, crucially, the legs have to be relaxed to allow the skis to sit absolutely flat on the snow, not on the inside edges. If the mind is not relaxed, if the body is tense, a skier may actually go slower.

There are no big bumps, but tiny ripples feel as if someone is shaking you at 200kph. If you tense, the next shake will push you over. What happens when people fall is a favourite question that speed skiers do not, it seems, like to answer. Laplace says 3,500 visitors tried the Flying K last year and there were no accidents.

Haki, a speed skier since 1964, says: "I never think about falling but I have had four friends killed through skiing: two downhill racing and two on the Flying K at Cervinia who crashed into the trees. It is safe if the slopes are OK, if the organisation is good, if you have rules."

Most skiers are fortunate enough just to slide and are required to wear a cotton suit under the latex suit to protect against friction burns. The suit melts under the heat generated by friction and there are stories of skiers ending a slide wearing nothing but their underpants. In a slide you lose some skin, but a tumbling fall can break bones.

"If you fall, you have to work immediately on your mind," said Laplace. "A skier must immediately go back up to where he raced from and do it again. If you do not do it again the same day, it is very hard ever to do it again."



SPEED SKIERS' FACT FILE

■ Graham Duffill and Philip Webster stayed at Chalet Tarentaise run by Optimum Ski based at Le Pré in Les Arcs. Deidre and Martin Rowe charge £395 a week for food and board and a further £160 for participation in a skiing skill course. Optimum in France: 00 334 7906 9126.

■ A run on the speed skiing course at Les Arcs costs Fr45 (about £4.50), two runs Fr70 and a day of unlimited runs Fr120. The course is open every day, weather permitting. There is no booking; just ask at the speed-skiing office at the bottom of the Flying K above Arc 2000. The speed skiing track can be reached only by a very steep "black" mogul field. Anyone who can manage the mogul field can ski the track.

■ The world championships will be held from April 5-9 and the mountain bike championships from April 12-14.

■ *For more information contact the Rhône-Alps Tourist* Board (0891 244123; premium rates), the Les Arcs Tourist Office (00 334 7907 1257) or the Club des Sports (00 334 7941 5527).

Tuck in, take flight

ETIENNE, a speed skier briefing the five Brits about to make their first descent of the Flying Kilometre at Les Arcs, was trying to be reassuring.

"Point one, you won't fall," said the latex-clad one. "Point two, if you fall, you must not try to stop yourself. Just roll. If you try to stop you will break every bone in your body." He smiled. "Finally, stay down on your skis. If you stand up, the G-forces will break your neck."

We were the only Brits in the group of 40 or so adventurers who had chosen to take on the Flying K. Four of us were regulars at Martin Rowe's Optimum ski clinic based at Le Pré, and the fifth was Phil James, his senior instructor. For several years we had looked across at the Flying K, which dominates the view above Arc 2000, and wondered what it would be like. We decided to find out. Between then and Etienne's words of encouragement, we had thought and spoken of little else. Friends said we were mad. Had we told our wives or bosses what we intended?

LES ARCS was blessed with good powder after a new fall but our priority was its schusses. The tuck had to be practised. It was the key to a fast time, said those who knew; the key, perhaps, even to our survival.

The hour arrived. Long and heavy skis and a helmet were hired from the office at the bottom of the course. We paid (yes, paid) for two runs, thinking that one would be more than enough.

Our morale was boosted when we saw the trouble many were having piloting their long skis down to the Flying K starting point through the deep snow on a steep mogul field. It was a battlefield, and particularly gratifying to overtake the dreaded Etienne.

It was too late now for nerves. In turn we edged our way out and on to the track, pointed the skis downhill, forced ourselves down into the lowest possible tuck, and went. Much too soon came the first timing gate, and in what seemed like an instant it was over but, remembering Etienne's dire warning, everyone remained tucked in until the course flattened out.

Ecstatic and relieved, we could not get back to the top quickly enough. The fear of the unknown had been replaced by a desire to go as fast as possible. We tried for the highest start-point but were ushered further down by the marshals. Still, it was a good 40 metres higher than before.

And this time it felt fast . . . very fast. I experienced that roller-coaster feeling and shouted "stay down" at myself at least a dozen times. It was over. We had survived. We saw one casualty, both of whose skis snapped in two after a crashing fall.

Now for the times. I had managed 128kph (80mph) and they gave me a certificate to prove it. But I was 4kph slower than instructor James. Next time it's the latex for me.

PHILIP WEBSTER



*Subject to terms and conditions. Calls charged at national rate. All calls are monitored for quality.





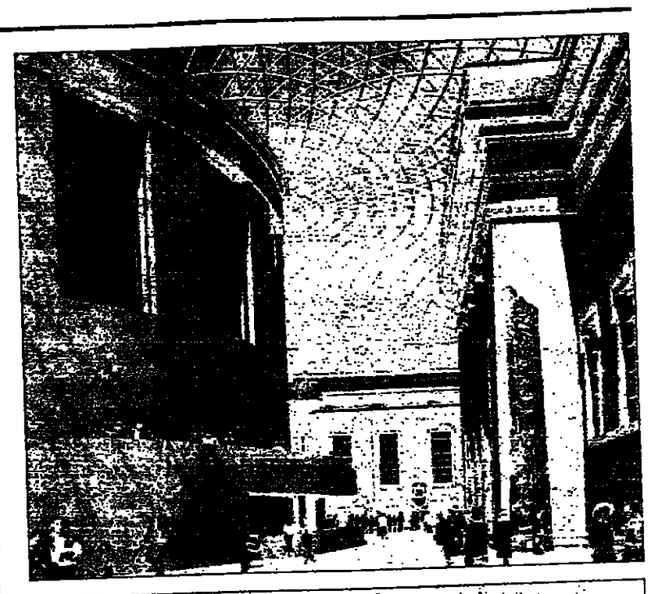
NIGEL TISDALL

The British Museum draws foreign students in their thousands every year

The British building site



Schoolchildren in the Egyptian Sculpture Gallery (above), learn that some exhibits have been locked up





A computer-generated view of the Great Court (top), the Museum's ambitious millennium project

The imposing earthenware figure of seated Lohan of the Liao Dynasty in the Department of Oriental Antiquities (above)

In the third of our series on great museums of the world, Nigel Tisdall roams the British Museum

The British Museum is a mess. Walk in through its great black iron gates, and you will find the courtyard beside its main entrance has become an ungainly building site. A huge, temporary shopping "shed" has been plonked in front of the museum's world-famous portico, and if you can make it through the thicket of hectoring signs demanding a £2 contribution, all you will reach is more shops: the British Library Shop, the British Museum Bookshop, the Children's Shop. First impressions suggest that, as with many of our great railway stations and cathedrals, the money-grabbers have taken over the temple.

Once inside, the congestion is worthy of the Underground in rush hour. All gallery-going life is here — gangs of garrulous foreign students, flotillas of perfumed ladies up from the shires, lonely, stick-like students taking their angst for a walk. If you were hoping to quietly contemplate the monumental baubles of civilization, forget it. The BM's got the builders in, and now it's hard enough to find the café, let alone enlightenment.

What has happened to our great national treasure trove, the Harrods of History? The answer is PMT. Pre-Millennial Tension. A tidal wave of change is charging through the streets of Bloomsbury. It promises to bring us a brave, new, relevant British Museum fit for the future, but in the meantime it is causing misery for those who just want to find their Marbles.

So far, £86 million has been raised for the BM's ambitious millenium project known as The Great Court, over half of it from Lottery-funded sources. The British Library is moving out, the Department of Ethnography (once housed at the Museum of Mankind in Burlington Gardens) is moving in. Sir Norman Foster has been engaged to transform the Round Reading Room into the centrepiece of a museum worthy of the 21st Century. I can't wait. If he does a job as brilliantly light and airy as he did at Stansted airport, it will have been worth it.

But what if you want to visit now? I'm tempted to say go away and read Gibbon till the next century, or better still come back in 2003, when the British Museum celebrates its 250th anniversary. By then, assuming the builders and budget barons get it right, the soporific old dowager will have transformed herself into a feisty supermodel of public instruction, complete with new Ethnography Galleries, an open-access library and a Centre for Education.



Entrance is free, but every little helps

In the meantime, the best policy is to engage in short, studious skirmishes. The British Museum owns 6.5 million exhibits and its displays are spread over two-and-a-half miles of galleries. Given its current state of upheaval, it makes supreme sense to narrow your sights to a temporary exhibition, or limit yourself to a few rooms, perhaps a Romano-British feast (Room 49), or a saunter through the Oriental collections, slipping in through the less-congested entrance in Montague Place.

That's the sensible approach, and I hardly ever manage to achieve it. It is so easy to get diverted in the British Museum, you see. This is no bad thing, for the triumph of this loot-laden labryinth is its ability to offer casual encounters with amazing things. On a recent visit I went looking for the *Portland Vase*, but got waylaid by *The Ram in the Thicket*, which isn't a pub but a small statue of a goat with a fleece of lapis lazuli feeding on a bush of gold leaf. Crafted around 2600 BC, it was found in the great "death-pit" of Ur in southern Mesopotamia and is one of the spookiest things I've ever seen.

The British Museum is very good at such mind-blowing meetings, and there is a strong argument for simply wandering, Kerouac-style, through its accreted layers, to see getting lost not as a cause for frustration, but as beneficial sidetracking by some unseen hand. So you didn't find the *Rosetta Stone*? Well how about the oldest trackway in Europe, built by Neolithic farmers in Somerset in 3806 BC, as compensation? This mother of all museums is so richly endowed, such an encyclopaedic monument to obsessive collecting and conserving, that you can't help but come out with your mind spinning.

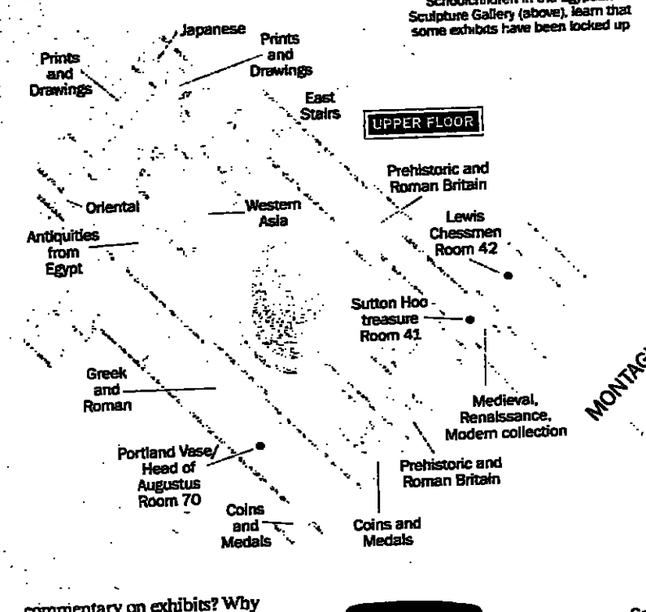
"When is it not busy here?" I asked a silver-haired attendant in navy blue uniform. "Ha!" he replied, as if I had asked Charon for a day-return to Hades. "It's usually better after three, when the school groups have gone. But avoid weekends. Even we can't get through the crowds."

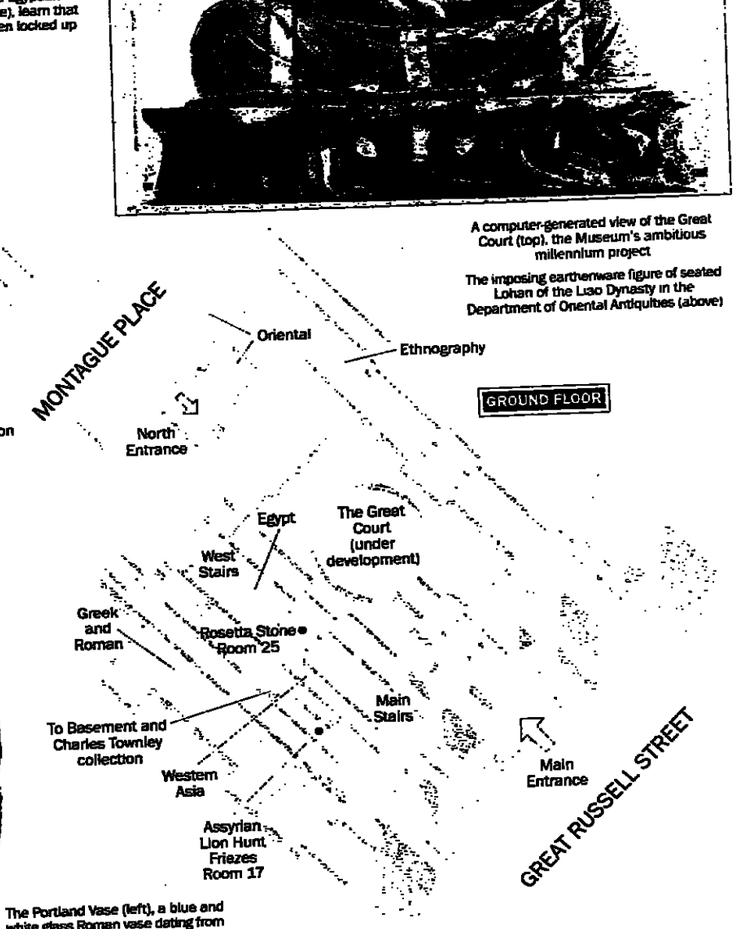
Of course it's good that the museum is so busy, and it has had problems of space ever since it was founded in 1753. But as you make your journey, trying not to trip over the earnest drawing classes, or tread on the tiny fingers of the Rainbow Class from St. Wildebeest Primary School, it's easy to see why the British Museum is in dire need of a radical re-think.

Why are the Greek galleries so miserable and drab? Why do they have horrible tiled floors that make it impossible to hear a lecturer? Why is it freezing cold in Assyria yet stiflingly hot in Medieval Tiles and Pottery? Why are all the seats so uncomfortable? Why is there no personal audio commentary on exhibits? Why is the best book about the museum, *Treasures of the British Museum* by Marjorie Caygill (British Museum Press), which tells the fascinating stories of how many exhibits ended up here, only available in hardback for £25?

No doubt the stock answer to all this is lack of money, even with all those brazen shops (though you do wonder what planet the management has been living on all these years).

Now at last change is on the way. And will you all please keep on buying Lottery tickets, because they still need another £10 million.







The Portland Vase (left), a blue and white glass Roman vase dating from 27BC: the Department of Greek & Roman Antiquities

HOW TO TOUR THE BRITISH MUSEUM

■ **Essentials:** The British Museum (0171-636 1555) is in Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG. Nearest Underground stations are Holborn, Tottenham Court Road and Russell Square. Opening hours are Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm. Sunday 2.30pm-6pm. The museum is closed on April 10 and May 4. Admission is free but a £2 donation is requested. Charges are made for some exhibitions. Website: *http://www.british-museum.ac.uk*

■ **In a hurry:** The British Museum Map (£1) includes directions for four introductory tours; or make a beeline for the Assyrian lion hunt friezes (Room 17), the bronze head of Augustus (Room 70), the Sutton Hoo treasure (Room 41) and the Lewis Chessmen (Room 42).

■ **Hidden gems:** Room 84 in the basement houses the entertaining sculpture collection of Charles Townley, including a statue of a discus thrower whose head was put on the wrong way round when restored. The Japanese galleries, up on Level 5 (Rooms 92-94), are cool and serene — the Konica Gallery displays some touchingly intimate scenes from life in 18th-century Japan.

■ **Forget it:** The King's Library books have moved to the new British Library. Some exhibits in the Egyptian Sculpture gallery (Room 25) have been boxed up or walled off. Several rooms are closed for refurbishment.

■ **Survival guide:** Travel light as the temporary cloakroom (outside by the main steps) has limited capacity. There is another cloakroom by the quieter Montague Place entrance, but note that the lift here is closed. Access for disabled visitors is restricted during building work; for recorded information call 0171-637 7384.

■ **Tours:** Lunchtime lectures and guided tours have been suspended (tours resume April 11), but a programme of free Eye-Openers, led by a British Museum Society volunteer, offers 50-minute tours of selected galleries. Children's trails and activity sheets are available. Flash photography and video cameras are permitted in most galleries.

■ **Recovery zones:** Extremely limited. The Café-Restaurant (entrance by Room 2) is run by Millburns, which also provides the catering in establishments such as the V&A and the Royal Academy of Arts. Although it is constantly busy and not for the claustrophobic, the restaurant serves good fare. My roasted red peppers stuffed with fennel and garlic were delicious, and cost £5.75 including a heap of salads: £1.50 for a bottle of mineral water seems excessive, but you can get an express lunch for £4.95. Museum Street, just across from the main entrance, has two pubs and a string of inviting cafés and bookshops.

■ **Books and souvenirs:** *The British Museum*, a large-format paperback guide (£5), provides a well-illustrated introduction to the museum and includes gallery maps. The Children's Shop (Room 26) isolates pocket-sized souvenirs and activity packs, such as *Fun with Hieroglyphs*, that will appeal to younger visitors. For British Museum-inspired gifts head for the shop outside the main entrance — how about an 800-piece jigsaw of the Rosetta Stone (£9.99), a skipping rope with Egyptian mummy handles (£8.95) or a white plaster replica of the nose on Michelangelo's *David* (£24.95)?

■ **Now on:** A recorded information service (0171-580 1788) gives details of current exhibitions. Arts of Japan runs until April 13; Princes, Poets and Paladins (Islamic and Indian paintings) until April 13; Padua in the 1450s, Marco Zoppo and his Contemporaries also runs until April 13, Arts of Nepal until May 31. Forthcoming exhibitions include Maori (June 27-November 1) and, in December, The Golden Sword: Sir Stamford Raffles and the East.

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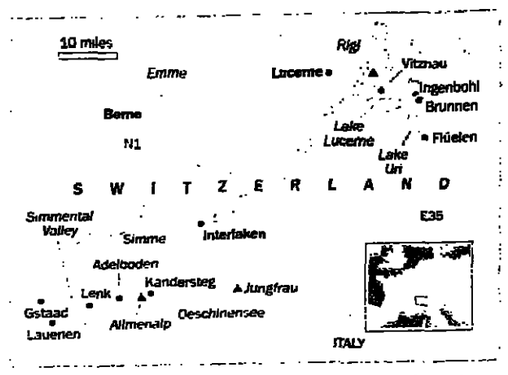
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SWITZERLAND: WALKING HOLIDAYS

Peace until the cows come home



Efficient trains and boats helped **Gareth Huw Davies** enjoy strolling the mountains around Lake Uri

In a gloomy recess in Ingenbohl Forest above Lake Uri, a buttercup yellow arrow beamed cheerfully out of the monochrome. "Trust me," it seemed to say. "I'm a Swiss signpost."

Like a cartographical St Bernard it offered reassurance, guidance and, if not exactly a drink, then the promise of one. A strapline along the arrow informed me the next village was (at walking pace) one hour and 20 minutes away. A symbol said, unequivocally, "Inn".

Subsequent yellow arrows widened the options. A left turn here and 45 minutes' walking would bring me to a bus stop; a branch to the right and I would arrive at the jetty for the lake steamer in 30 minutes. The arrows are just another strand in Switzerland's awesomely integrated transport system.

There was another option: I could switch into medieval pilgrim mode and strike off across the country. One sign offered destinations that would keep me walking well into next week: the Passo de Bernina in 69 hours; Compocologno, down on the Italian border, 78 hours away.

Today's target was much closer and with an intriguingly Shakespearean ring to it. Flüelen is a small town at the top of Lake Uri. The first yellow sign I found on the edge of Brunnen, where I spent the night, suggested three hours, 50 minutes' walking. I did it in six hours, but with frequent stops at belvederes, century-old terraces from where I could look down through the trees and see eagles corkscrewing over the lake.

There were also many musical interludes. Swiss valleys really do conform to their aural stereotype, the sound of cowbells being to the Alpine meadow what Muzak is to the hotel lift. The alert cowman can tell where his beasts are without even looking. A regular chime in A-natural means a cow easefully grazing; a feverish andantino is a cow scratching its back, while the sound of a cow scratching another's back is like the rhythm of an urban rap. A dull clunk, clunk, is several recumbent cows struggling to their knees.

I reached Flüelen. I could use my Swiss Pass (free passage on all publicly owned transport systems) back to Brunnen on steamer, bus and train. (There is also a bike route.) Today I take the northbound Chiasso to Basle express and retrace a full day's walking in 15 minutes.

The next day I was introduced to the Swiss naval tradition. I took the paddle steamer *Stadt Luzern* for the hour's trip to Vitznau on the interlocking quartet of lakes that the Swiss call the Vierwaldstattersee and which we know as Lake Lucerne (Luzern in German). *Stadt Luzern* announced her arrival with an imperious boom, the captain standing on the bridge at a brass speaking tube. From the stern trailed a Swiss flag so vast it did not so much flap as elegantly undulate. We glided majestically into the quayside at Vitznau and an officer adroitly lassoed a bollard with the hawser to tie us up.

Like Queen Victoria and Mark Twain, I was here to ascend Mount Rigi. The queen was carried. Twain walked. Intending to greet the dawn over the Alps, he took two days and wrote about the experience, hilariously, in *A Tramp Abroad*. I took the train which meets the boat and, in turn, interconnects with a veritable spider's web of footpaths.

Swiss mountain railways, smart, well funded and mostly privately run, are the equivalent of our long-lost country rail system, but on an incline. The Rigi Railway is both tourist attraction and social service. My train carried Japanese tourists on the inside and milk churns (to the vehicle-free communities up on Rigi) on the outside.

At every station there was a post garlanded with yellow signs, firing off walking opportunities to all points of the mountain. The train, a grumble of cog-wheels, took 35 minutes to the top. The final stage to the summit at 1,800 metres was up a slope aglow with mountain primroses.

Like Twain, I peered over Rigi's southern precipice. A mile down, commercial Switzerland bustled on main roads and railways tangling and unravelling across a fertile plain. For Twain it was "like inspecting the world on the wing". I decided to walk one of the summit circuits, but as I set off malevolent blue-grey vapours were beginning to obscure the sun. It was already raining in Lucerne, 20 miles away. The thunder cloud boiled up. With no wind, it had the entire compass to choose from. It chose Rigi. A distinct grey curtain advancing across Lake Lucerne allowed me to plot the exact path of the storm. I had ample time to choose a shelter under a rocky overhang, where I could casually regard unquantifiable billions of raindrops hurtling past and still with 3,000 feet to go.

Five minutes later, this small meteorological event was all over. Now I could see the entire left half of the panorama, composed of wave after wave of snow-capped mountains, rolling away to Mount Titlis and the Gotthard. They remained bathed in sun the entire afternoon.

I was heading back towards the path down to Vitznau when, at 4pm sharp, an unexpected notice stopped me in my tracks. "Twinnings (sic) tea — 30 varieties." I climbed the path in happy anticipation of a steaming cup of Prinz (sic) of Wales. Not today. The tea room was boarded up. I was a month early. They have been serving mountain visitors here for well over 100 years and they know exactly how much business they can afford to ignore on a wet Wednesday afternoon in early June.

I spent the night in luxury in the Park Hotel Vitznau — the setting for the film of Anita Brookner's novel *Hotel du Lac*. It was built in the Belle Epoque style in 1902, so Queen Victoria just missed it. She would surely have found it to her taste — as indeed would Twain after his adventures.



EDMUND LIEOURHART

Ringing the changes: the sound of cowbells in a Swiss valley tells the cowman where his beasts are — and, just as important, what they are doing



On the Alpine trail

WALKERS' FACT FILE

■ Gareth Huw Davies travelled with Switzerland Tourism, based at the Switzerland Travel Centre, Swiss Court, London W1V 8EE (0171-734 4577/4578).

He followed yellow *wanderweg* or *sentier* paths with no climbing involved. Stout boots and waterproof clothing (spring and summer rains are frequent and heavy) were sufficient.

■ Getting there: Scheduled Swissair (0171-434 7300) flights from Heathrow to Zurich start at £103 plus £26.50 tax. The Swiss Pass, which you can buy in advance from the Switzerland Travel Centre, gives unrestricted travel on lake steamers, railways (but not all privately owned mountain trains) and public transport. The pass costs £88 for four days (second class), or £110 for eight days (second class).

■ Where to stay: Three-star hotels in the Vitznau/Brunnen region start at £70 per night.

■ Useful numbers: Brunnen tourist office (41 825 0040), Rigi Railway (41 399 8787).

■ Walking holiday operators: Exodus (0181-673 0859), Thomson (0990 502565), Inghams (0181-780 6444), Plus Travel (0171-259 0199), Inntravel (01653 628862), Swiss Travel Service (01992 456143), Kuoni (01306 742500).

■ Background reading: *Walking in Switzerland* (Lonely Planet, £8.99). Mark Twain's *A Tramp Abroad* is available in hardback (Oxford University Press, £19.99) but a new paperback edition (Penguin, £7.99) will be on sale soon.

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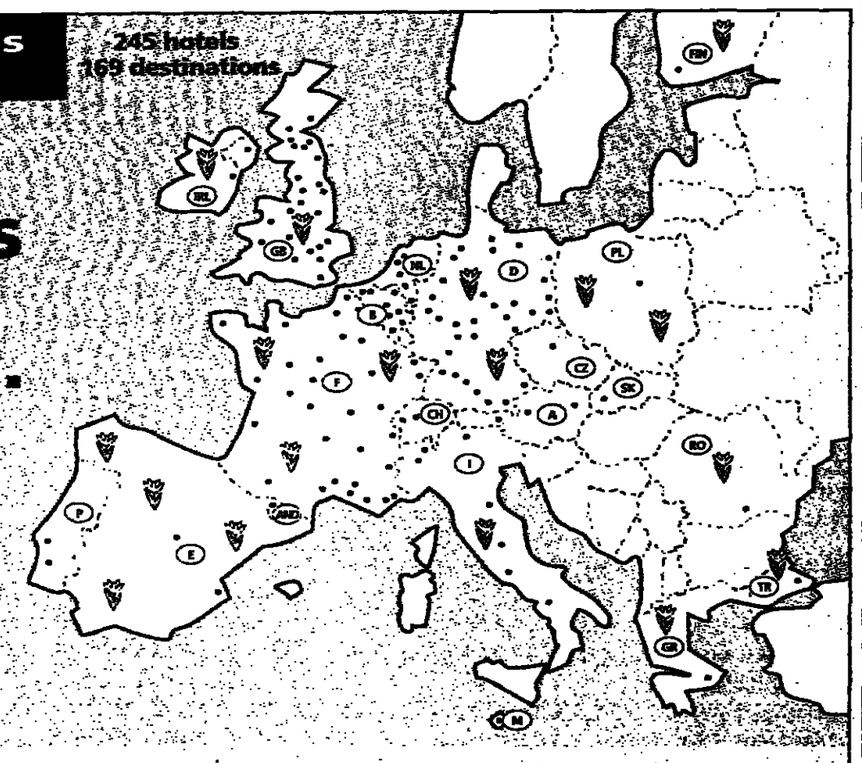
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SWITZERLAND: WALKING HOLIDAYS

Brian Jackman enjoys walks on the wild side among the sights and sounds of the Bernese Oberland

Climbing a Swiss cheese mountain



WORLD PICTURES

The Oeschinensee, on the writer's favourite circuit, is a blue-green lake encircled by waterfalls and peaks

The day had been warm in Kandersteg. When we took the cable car to Allmenalp, 1,725m above the village, the sun was still shining, and the mountain restaurant had set tables outside for the last summer visitors. Yet already the surrounding peaks glistened with an unseasonal dusting of snow.

From close by came a sweet carillon; it was Werner Reichen's cows coming home for milking, their bells clanking across the high pastures. Every year in mid-June he brings them here to graze until September, when he takes them back to the valley. "Or sooner if winter comes early," he said, staring up at the overnight snow.



Good sign language

He sells cheese made from their milk for SwFr20 a kilo. "It isn't famous like simmental or gruyère," he said. "But people like it. Sometimes, if I'm short of cash, I just pay with cheese."

He invited us into his farmhouse. Inside, milk was simmering in a giant copper cauldron and the air was so thick you could cut it with a cheese wire. Disappearing into a back room, he returned with a cheese as hard as rock and the size of a hatbox which he sliced into curly slivers and served with crusty bread and a bottle of young, green wine.

The cheese was deliciously dry and salty. The wine flowed freely, and soon Herr Reichen was serenading us with Swiss oompah tunes on his 40-year-old accordion, before blowing us on our way with a quick burst on his alpenhorn.

To find our legs on the first day of our walking holiday we followed a winding path back to Kandersteg in the valley below. The sun vanished behind the clouds and a fine rain began to fall, but it was still good to be in the Alps, to smell the air and see the waterfalls as they descended from the limestone crags above.

A sudden movement caught my eye. It was a chamois, all four feet bunched together, perfectly balanced on a crag. I looked around the slope with my binoculars and picked out another four, all feeding peacefully and seemingly unconcerned by our presence.

Lower down, the late summer pastures were starred with the white flowers of grass of Parnassus and in the woods were wild strawberries and raspberries to be picked by the handful. On we trod, below the hanging valleys, the smoking peaks, to gentler slopes where drifts of pale mauve autumn crocuses grew and suede cows grazed, heads bowed under the weight of brass bells the size of fire-buckets.

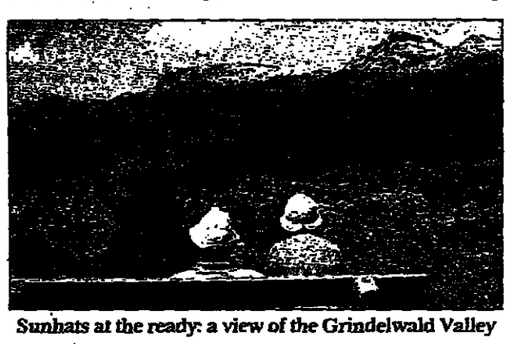
As we walked back into Kandersteg I could hear the bells ringing and clanking behind me, their echoes flying from crag to crag until it seemed as if the whole enchanted valley was chiming like a tuning fork.

From Kandersteg, deep in the Bernese Oberland, walks radiate in every direction. The paths are marked with typical Swiss efficiency and fall into two categories: *Wanderweg* (marked in yellow) are easy footpaths; *Bergweg* (marked in red and white) are for experienced mountain walkers only.

My favourite was the Heuberg circuit, a two-and-a-half-hour walk overlooking the Oeschinensee, a blue-green lake reached by a 50-year-old chairlift. The lake itself lies in a deep amphitheatre encircled by glaciers, waterfalls and dog-tooth peaks — Doldenhorn, Fründenhorn, Wyssi Frau and Blüemlisalphorn — all more than 3,600m.

On the way up, traversing the scree slopes that sweep down from the terraced cliffs of the Oeschischafberg, I was overtaken by three farmers carrying wooden rakes, heading for the meadows beyond the Heuberg spur. It was perfect haymaking weather: not a cloud in the sky and the lake like a mirror far below. Then, without warning, came an ear-splitting explosion that sent a flurry of Alpine choughs wheeling into the sky. Somewhere on the opposite side of the cirque a glacier had collapsed, sending an avalanche of ice and rock roaring and spinning into the void beneath. A timely reminder, even on the sunniest of days, to treat the mountains with respect.

I had come to Kandersteg with the Yorkshire-based operator Inntravel, which devises routes for independent walkers. The joy is that you can walk unencumbered by baggage and bedrolls. All you need is a lightweight rucksack, sweater and waterproofs, water bottle and picnic lunch. Then, armed with a dossier of notes and maps, you can proceed at your own pace from one hotel to the next to find your luggage awaiting you.



Sunhats at the ready: a view of the Grindelwald Valley

My route was put together by Casi Platzer, owner of the four-star Hotel Victoria in Kandersteg. The walking was defined as "grade 2" (moderate, with some ascents and descents) and "grade 3" (high mountains with steep ascents and descents). The average day covered nine miles and the highest altitude was 2,400m.

Casi and I set off next morning by bus to the ski resort of Adelboden. From here the plan was to walk over the Hahnenmoos Pass to the village of Lenk in the valley beyond. But the day, which had begun grey and gloomy, took a turn for the worse and it began to rain. Not yesterday's gentle drizzle but a relentless downpour. There was no choice but to take the gondola to the summit restaurant nearly 2,000m above and hope the weather would improve.

Two hours later the rain was still denying me a view of the Wildstrubel massif and the Simmental valley. But at least I was warm and dry again. So, fortified by mountainous plates of rösti, we headed out, squelching our way across drenched pastures that slid away into the mist. Somewhere down there was Lenk and the promise of a hot bath at the Hotel Krone.

It could not have been more different the next day. The walk began in a gloomy gorge beside the tumbling Wallbach torrent. But higher up I could see the morning light slanting through the pines and a cloudless sky above. Flights of metal steps linked a series of vantage points overhanging the stream where it fell in thundering chutes from one boiling pool to the next.

An hour later, we emerged from the dripping woods to find the Berghaus Wallegg basking in full sunlight above the village. This was the archetypal Alpine restaurant, timbers as dark as Swiss chocolate, balconies overwhelmed by red and blue petunias. We ordered coffee while accordion music spilt from an open doorway and turned our faces to the sun.

Across the valley, the slopes of the Hahnenmoos Pass — invisible the day before — now stood out sharp and clear; to the south were the eternal snows and shining glaciers of the Wildstrubel.

An hour later found us above the treeline, among bright meadows and boggy slopes alive with frogs. "In late May these slopes were still under snow," said Casi. Now it was shirtsleeve weather: time to pause for a swig from our water bottles. As we did so, I looked up and saw a pair of eagles hunting, using the updraughts to drift along the ridges where marmots sun themselves among the rocks.

On we climbed over flower-strewn pastures. Here grew clover and burnet, carline thistles like miniature suns, and carpets of gentians more deeply blue than the Alpine sky above. Earlier in the year you may stumble on even greater botanic delights. "I can show you places," said Casi, conspiratorially, "where lady's slipper orchids grow in their hundreds."

At just over 2,000m we stopped on the brow of the Trüttlisberg Pass for a picnic of ham, cheese, chicken and fruit. To the southeast I could see the frozen tongue of the Plaine Morte Glacier and, on the horizon beyond, the Eiger and Mönch — the white giants of the Bernese Oberland.

From the Trüttlisberg it was downhill all the way, a two-hour hike to the hamlet of Lauenen, near Gstaad. This was Switzerland at its best: the air quivering with the sound of grasshoppers, and two spectacular waterfalls, the Tungelschuss and Geltenschuss, plunging into the Lauenental valley.

The day was still hot, my throat was parched, my water bottle long since emptied. But in front of us, framed by a wall of snow-capped summits, was a vision of white tables and sparkling glasses laid out on the terrace of the Hotel Alpenland. Never has a cold lager been more welcome.

WALKERS' FACT FILE

- Brian Jackman travelled with Inntravel (01653 629811).
- Prices for a seven-night holiday, with six days' walking in the Bernese Oberland start at £643, rising to £698 in peak season (July and August).
- Prices are based on two people sharing a room, and include flights with Air Engiadina from London City Airport to Berne, plus 45-minute private transfer to the Hotel Victoria in Kandersteg, where the week starts and finishes.
- A similar self-drive package costs £465-£545, and extra nights can be added at a cost of between £46 and £51 per night.

PICTURES



Writer Brian Jackman and friend on the trail

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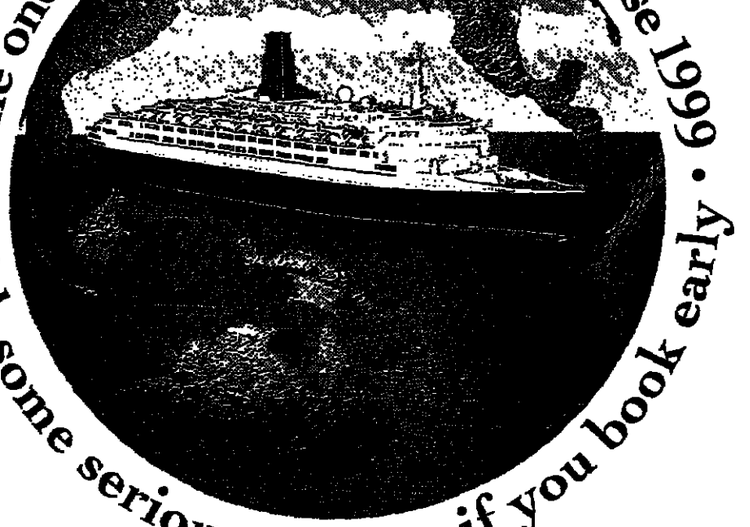


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DIVING: MICRONESIA

A treasure hunt down under

Julian Ryall dives among the wrecks of warships that sank in the Chuuk lagoon in the Pacific



The bow gun of the *Shinkoku Maru*, a warship that sank in the Chuuk lagoon 50 years ago, along with some 60 ships from the Imperial Japanese Navy's Fourth fleet

As the silver bubbles slide off the top of my diving mask and I look down through the limpid water, the last words of the dive captain ring in my head: "Don't get excited down there."

But as my eyes become accustomed to the slight gloom and I begin to make out below me the massive shape of a coral-encrusted warship, sunk more than 50 years ago yet still complete with bridge and towering masts, it is hard to keep my breathing in check.

The *Shinkoku Maru* was a 10,020-ton naval tanker that sank on an even keel after being hit by a single torpedo from a US Grumman Avenger torpedo fighter bomber on February 17, 1944, the first day of Operation Hailstorm. She was lying at anchor when the explosion tore a jagged hole in her hull, flooding the engine room. There was an explosion and a flash fire, the weight of the water pulled the ship under. Dozens of her crew perished.

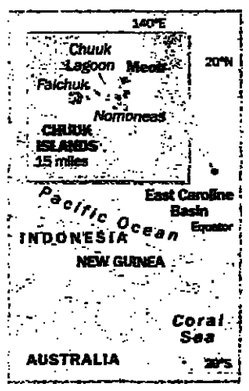
But now the *Shinkoku Maru* is a diver's dream. Old Chuuk hands recommend that new arrivals make multiple descents to see the bow gun, surrounded by scattered boxes of live ammunition, and engine telegraphs in the navigation bridge, as well as to enter the aft section to see dishes, canteens, kettles and beer bottles in the galley, and depth charges still in their racks.

The stern section also contains human remains. Two skulls lie in a passage just inside the aft superstructure and in a cabin off the passage, apparently the engineer's stateroom, the play of a torch reveals femurs and other bones partly buried in the sediment of 50 years.

Some 60 ships of the Imperial Japanese Navy's Fourth fleet were sent to the bottom of the lagoon by American carried-based aircraft in Operation Hailstorm. Most were transport and resupply vessels that had arrived to reinforce Japan's most important central Pacific base.

Truk, which was renamed Chuuk in 1989, includes 192 outer islands in addition to the 15 main islands and islets that make up Chuuk lagoon. Today, it is home to 50,000 people, a third of whom live on Moen, which the Japanese called Spring Island.

The lagoon was also known as the "Gibraltar of the Pacific" by the time the Japanese, who began to use forced labourers to construct military bases after occupying the islands in 1914, completed their fortifications. The Japanese recognised the lagoon's strategic importance and the fact that the outer barrier reef, with its few passageways, made the anchorage and islands easily defensible against a seaborne invasion.



But what served to keep the Allied forces out also hemmed the Japanese ships in. They were sitting targets for planes from the 11 aircraft carriers, supported by an armada including the battleships *Iowa* and *New Jersey* that made up Task Force 58. After Operation Hailstorm, the lagoon was by-passed by the Americans as they island-hopped across the Pacific toward Japan. The US military arrived after the war had been won and found some 30,000 Japanese who had been stranded since the raid.

But even after the occupiers had been repatriated, the islands were unable to shake off all the signs of Japan's 30-year rule. Rusting large-calibre weapons remain in caves blasted into the rocky hillsides, their muzzles still trained on the passes into the lagoon. Reinforced concrete gun emplacements retain their fields of fire along the shore, and islanders turn a buck charging visitors to look at the remains of Japanese aircraft that conveniently crashed in their back gardens.

But it is the submarines, cruisers, tankers and cargo ships resting beneath the surface of the 1,323sq km lagoon that are Chuuk's most famous attractions. Some lie largely intact, while others were strewn across the seabed when munitions in their holds exploded. Each is a time-capsule, containing trucks, guns and aircraft parts, as well as the minutiae of life on board.

The wrecks have now become foster homes to hundreds of species of delicate coral and anemone, along with their accompanying schools of darting, brightly coloured fish. The ships have also been declared an underwater historical park, and divers need permits to follow the shafts of moving sunlight that pierce the water and reveal the sunken vessels.

As the dive captain's boat skipped across the flat waters and neared Eten Island, it became apparent why the locals call it Aircraft Carrier Island. The Japanese forced Chuukese labourers to pull down half of what was the tip of a submerged mountain and reclaim and level a 1km stretch to turn the island into an airfield.

The importance of the island made it one of the first targets for the American raid. Some 62 Japanese aircraft managed to get airborne, mostly the famed Mitsubishi A6M Reisen Zero fighters, but they were the target of intense attacks as they frantically scrambled to gain height. An estimated 37 were shot down before they were even able to engage the enemy.

Our boat pulled up about 12 metres from the end of what used to be the runway, which is now covered with palm trees and secondary vegetation. I slipped into the water and less than 10 metres below my fins was the belly of a Zero fighter. Resting on white sand, the fuselage is buckled and the port wing-tip is partially torn away, but the aircraft is in remarkably good condition. Coral and rust have not encroached on the aluminium, and the machine looks as if it arrived in its watery resting place just yesterday.

History does not record whether the pilot got out alive. It seems unlikely.

One of the islands' most famous underwater sights is the vessel simply known as the "Gun High" wreck. Resting on a sloping reef, just one metre below the surface, is the bow cannon of the 999-ton *Hino Maru 2*, a small armed freighter that took a direct hit and was all but demolished. The forward section is almost the only part that is recognisable, the gun's barrel is still aimed over the windlass, anchor chain and sharply pointed bow.

I followed a small shark as it moved swiftly along the bottom toward where the ship's stern should have been. The mid-section is largely twisted metal and the ribs and plating on the port side have been staved in by a near miss. The mast has fallen over to starboard and trails over the railings, a crosstree is buried in coral. At the stern, the rudder is broken off and lies on the bottom while the propeller is still attached to the drive shaft. Colourful reef fish surround the gun's breech, helping to make it one of the most celebrated and photographed images in the Pacific.

Perhaps surprisingly, not all the ships that are believed to have been sunk in the lagoon have been found. In the confusion of the raid, as ships tried to manoeuvre out of the path of incoming torpedo bombers and escape the lagoon, some vessels disappeared without a trace. Each year, divers come across the debris of ships or, more occasionally, entire sections of vessels.

However, most of those that managed to slip beyond the reef before being lost are unlikely ever to be found; the lagoon is all that remains of a volcanic island and immediately beyond the reef the walls of the submerged mountain fall away almost vertically.

The light cruiser *Katori* was the flagship of the Sixth Submarine Fleet and was torpedoed outside the North West Pass while escorting a convoy. Despite repeated searches, nothing to indicate the ship even existed has been found. The *Katori* is officially listed as "Not found. Depth abyssal."

CHUUK FACT FILE



Diving can yield unusual Japanese artefacts

■ **Getting there:** Continental Airlines (0800 776464) has return flights from Gatwick to Chuuk in May from £2,600.20; a three-day journey that includes overnight stopovers in Houston and Guam. All-Ways Pacific Travel (01494 875151) can put together tailor-made trips.

■ **Climate:** Chuuk's average temperature is a fairly constant 27C. Humidity is high throughout the year and it is normally hottest between July and November. There can be storms in November.

■ **Currency:** The currency throughout the islands is the US dollar. Some places now take credit cards.

■ **Visa requirements:** British passport holders do not need a visa for stays of up to 30 days.

■ **Health Precautions:** Take plenty of sunblock, wear a hat and do not stay in the open too long to avoid sunburn and heat exhaustion. Take antiseptic cream and plasters for coral cuts.

■ **Accommodation:** Chuuk has only one resort hotel, the Truk Continental Hotel (00 691 330 2727), which has single or double rooms for £59.10 until the end of April — the hotel is basic. Truk Stop Hotel (691 330 4232) has single rooms for £18.80 and doubles for £65.30. The Christopher Inn (691 330 2652) has single rooms for £29.40 and doubles for £35.80. All prices room-only.

■ **Diving:** Micronesia Aquatics (691 330 2204), located inside the gates of the Truk Continental Hotel, specialists in underwater photography. Sundance Tours and Dive Shop (691 330 4234).

A permit is needed to dive in Chuuk and can be purchased from dive operators for £6.25.

■ **Culture:** Many locals rely on subsistence farming and fishing. Chuukese magic, a form of black magic, is widespread; love potions, some including centipede teeth and stingray tail, are popular.

■ **Further information:** Chuuk Visitors Bureau, Box FQ, Chuuk, The Federated States of Micronesia 96942.

■ **Reading:** *Micronesia* (Lonely Planet, £8.95).

Diving to cool off in Jordan

NOTHING kindles a diver's desire to be diving so intensely as a day and a night in Wadi Rum. Accompanied by a Bedou guide, I spent a day trekking through this vast, sun-baked, dried-up riverbed that leads down to the Gulf of Aqaba, and Jordan's only outlet to the sea.

The colours intensified as the sun sank: the mountains turned burnished copper, the wadi tuna-pink, the dunes lobster-red. In the lengthening shadows of a ravine, we spotted the low black silhouette of the Bedu tent in which we were to sleep that night. After supper around a campfire, three Bedouin sang to the accompaniment a kind of lute and two goatskin drums. The moonless sky scintillated with stars.

AN HOUR before dawn I rose and climbed the hill that sheltered our tent to watch the stars fade and the sun rise. The vast khaki desert emerged from the soft purple half-light and the mountain peaks reddened and brightened as they caught the first rays. It was going to be hot again, and it was time to leave what T.E. Lawrence called the "vast, echoing and God-like Wadi Rum" and make my way down to Aqaba and the sport of kings.

For today's Jordanian royal family, this is not falconry but scuba diving. My first dive was to the *Cedar Pride*, scuttled on the orders of Prince Abdullah, which lies on its side at a depth of 27 metres in the Gulf of Aqaba. You follow your divemaster through a break in the fringing reef and down over shelving coral — fascinating varieties of intricately latticed corals, between which swim tiny jewel-like basslets and anthias until the bottom of the boat looms ahead. Soft corals cover the rusting wreck, trailing eerily from the mast.

Compared with the Caribbean or the Indian Ocean, you won't see many large fish and mammals or huge coral formations. Another difference is that most dive sites are approached from the shore — which means a trudge across a hot, pebbly beach in full gear. I prefer to drop off the back of a boat.

On the other hand, diving costs less here, and there is a vast variety of corals, fed by a constant supply of nutrient-rich water and protected by a Government-backed conservation policy. And unlike the busy Red Sea resorts further south, at Aqaba you can explore little-known but fascinating dive sites.



Tropical fish dazzle among the coral reefs of Aqaba

JOHN HANDS

● *John Hands travelled with Aqualours (0181-255 8050), which specialises in tailor-made scuba-diving holidays. Seven days, including flights, transfers and B&B accommodation at Alcazar Hotel in Aqaba, cost £479 (May-Sept).*

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DIVING: GRAND CAYMAN

Undersea graduate passes the big test

Gill Williams joins a marine adventurer as he takes the plunge in the warm waters of the Caribbean



PLANET EARTH

Swimming with a stingray among the coral reefs and hidden undersea caves of the Grand Cayman, reckoned by Jacques Cousteau to be among the world's best diving sites

Greener around the gills than a snapper two days out of the net, Steve Hills was subdued when he turned up for school with workbook and swimming trunks. There was none of the usual backchat as the instructor helped him to put on tanks and fins for the first dive.

But half an hour later Steve came scampering up the dock, bursting with fishy tales. He'd seen a squid and a shoal of cuttlefish just off the shore. "I was completely absorbed by this incredible landscape. This is why I am here, so I can see these things. I can float and I can fly."

Scott, the diving instructor, grinned. "He's got the bug."

It is never easy being a guinea pig, and Steve knew all eyes were on him as the first person in the Caribbean to learn to dive through the British Sub Aqua Club's new Ocean Diver course. He also had a deadline.

A cameraman, he was scheduled to start work on a television programme in the Caymans the following week tracking squid and turtles along the coral reef. Not only would he need to master his dive equipment but also keep control of his Sony camera at considerable depths. All in all, he was under considerable pressure.

The BSAC course is taught at Eden Rock on Grand Cayman, the largest of three coral islands that Jacques Cousteau once declared were among the ten greatest dive sites on Earth. It is a long trip for British visitors wanting to make their first foray into the undersea world — but it sure beats learning to dive in a flooded quarry pit in the Midlands.

"We chose this spot to launch Ocean Diver in the Caribbean because it is one of the greatest shore dives in the world," said Mike Holbrook, director of BSAC International. "My wife learnt to dive here 20 years ago and it's still one of our favourite places."

Steve made his first tentative splashes not in a swimming pool but in the calm, shallow waters of Eden Rock's coral lagoon. "Scott calls it his swimming pool. It's a great way to build your confidence because the sea water gives you buoyancy and the visibility is excellent," he said.

Beneath the surface lies a labyrinth of caves and underwater towers known as the Devil's Grotto. Just ten minutes' walk from the centre of Cayman's capital, George Town, the sea is clear and unpolluted.

Between dives and classroom lessons, Eden Rock students mingle with Caymanians, who dive after work in the same way we might drop into the local gym. This is also where American cruise line passengers come to snorkel.

Steve had some doubts. "I was hugely apprehensive," he admitted. "I wasn't scared of drowning because I was in the hands of some of the best divers around. But I did expect to be bombarded with awful maths."

He would have been less nervous if he had classmates. "It would be fun with another beginner. However, technically, you learn faster with one-to-one instruction."

The five-day course covers dive theory and technique. It involves classroom work, exams and hours of underwater training. The idea is that the safety drill should become second nature.

"I suppose it's like driving," said Steve, a weekend rally hound. "Once you are trained, you don't even think about it."

Mike Holbrook disagreed. "You always need to think a little, to keep an edge," he warned.

On the second day, Steve was his normal, chirpy self, although still wary of the arithmetic. As it was, the complicated long division he expected never happened. "I know now that provided you can divide 2,000 by ten, you have it cracked."

The real brain-teasers are the dive tables, the logarithm-like charts that calculate how deep and how long you can safely remain underwater without suffering decompression sickness, more commonly known as "the bends".

"The course seems to give you a basic understanding of what can go wrong and what you should do to prevent things going wrong. Most of the lessons are common-sense," Steve said.

Many holidaymakers prefer to snorkel because pottering about on the surface seems less daunting than diving below.

But Steve found snorkelling hardest of all. He swallowed much of the Caribbean through his snorkel and still loathes the hose. Divers must be able to control their depth, and being able to hover in mid-water is a hard skill to master.

It's called being neutrally buoyant. I spent the first few weeks of my diving life upside down in forests of kelp or bobbing helplessly on the surface before I discovered the difference between negative (thumbs down) and positive (thumbs up) buoyancy. Steve caught on quicker than most. And, like a good boy scout, he practised hand signals and safety drills underwater — skills that are not easy to learn, or teach, underwater.

There was one problem that couldn't be sorted in class. Steve suffers from seasickness. "I've thrown up on Channel ferries. But I didn't know if I'd be sick on a dive boat so I decided not to take any pills." On the day of his first boat dive, the day of the qualifying tests, the sea was choppy. Even experienced divers had difficulty clambering on to the boat.

"We're talking white breakers out at sea," Steve moaned. He sat away from the other passengers, trying to ignore the motion of the waves and the fumes from the engine.

There were other nasty surprises. Scott told Steve to do a forward-roll into the water, without tanks, using the hated snorkel. "I've never done one myself but it's part of the BSAC course," Scott admitted, before giving an immaculate demonstration.

A dive master from the American-based rival Professional Association of Diving Instructors, also on the boat, muttered that forward-rolls were just sheer machismo on the part of the British.

Steve's world spun as he performed three circles in the churning sea. We saw his fins, then the top of his head, his trunks and his fins again. "The forward-roll is the most hideous entry into the water that's ever been invented," he growled, as I hauled him up the ladder.

He was the colour of bilge water. His seasickness was compounded by the sea water he'd swallowed in his daredevil tumble. But he insisted on making his last, qualifying dive, vowing "I'm not going to be sick. I've invested a week's holiday and I'm going to be certified, one way or the other".

Down they went for the final assault. I watched as Steve completed the last test, towing a surface position-marking buoy backwards and forwards, without tangling the line in the anchor rope.

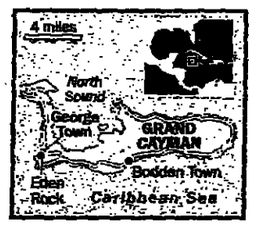
Scott let out a whoop as they surfaced. "Congratulations, you're the Caribbean's first Ocean Diver," he hollered. Steve grinned and blew water from his snorkel. Suddenly, he felt a great deal better.

GILL WILLIAMS



Aquatic pioneer: Steve Hills with diving instructor Scott

FACT FILE



■ Gill Williams travelled with the Cayman Islands Tourist Board and the British Sub Aqua Club.

■ The London International Dive Show takes place at Olympia, in West London, next weekend (March 28-29); admission £7.50, or £5 with a copy of this article. Details: 0181-977-9878.

■ The Ocean Diver course at Eden Rock (001 345 949 7243, fax: 001 345 949 0842) costs £328 for two people or £390 for a single person. You can book through your tour operator or on the spot. Eden Rock also offers qualified divers six-day packages with two boat dives each day, use of underwater cameras and unlimited shore dives for £178.

■ A double room at Sunset House in George Town (001 345 949 7111, fax: 001 345 949 7101) starts at £652 for a week; Sunset House also offers week-long dive packages from £996 per person.

■ When to go: High season from mid-March to June; there is some risk of hurricanes between June and August.

■ Further information: Cayman Islands Tourist Board (0171-491 7771); ask about the Cayman Islands Privilege Card, which gives discounts of up to 25 per cent on car hire as well as watersports, and at some restaurants. E-mail inquiries to *info@caymanuk.demon.co.uk*

■ Contact the British Sub Aqua Club on 0151-350 6200.

■ Tour operators: Archipelago Holidays (0181-743 5115); Barefoot Traveller (0181-741 4319); Crusader Travel (0181-744 0474); Goldenjoy (0171-794 9818); Harlequin Worldwide (01708 852780); Hayes & Jarvis (0181-748 5050); Kuoni Sport Abroad (01306 744345); Regal Dive (01353 778096); Scuba Safaris (01797 270910); Thomas Cook Holidays (01733 418450).

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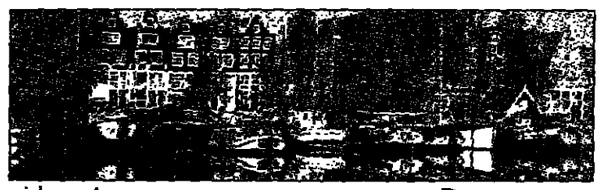
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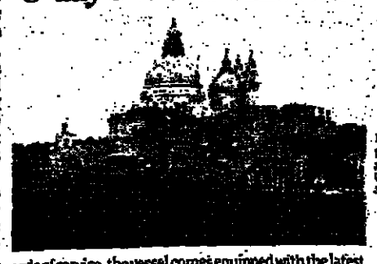
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هكذا من الأصل

AROUND THE WORLD A GARDEN LOVER

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw

TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR



Treats in Lombardy

THE Italian lakes heave with visitors in high summer, but are delightful in May when the Travel Club of Upminster (01708 223000) has a nine-night trip to the villas and gardens of Lombardy. As a bonus, the holiday is based at the Hotel Giardinetto on Lake Orta, one of Italy's best-kept secrets.

From Orta, there are three full-day excursions included in the price of £726 (which also covers flights and half-board accommodation). First stop: the splendours of Lake Maggiore including the Villa Taranto Botanical Gardens, the 1930 creation of Scots Captain Neil McEacharn, and the Isola Madre in the centre of Borromeo Bay; next, Lake Como's Bellagio, summer playground of the former Italian aristocracy whose idea of horticultural heaven was to tame nature with classical statues, exotic plants, peacocks and water-lily ponds. Finally there is a visit to the Renaissance villa and gardens of Cicogna-Mozzoni, originally a 15th-century hunting lodge but gradually converted into a grandiose country residence.

ISOLATED from mainland Europe and covered with herb-scented maquis and natural forest, Corsica hosts a variety of endemic species which you can discover on Naturetrek's (01962 733051) spring holiday accompanied by botanist Blaise Cooke and ornithologist John Carruthers. On the itinerary: the old Genoese stronghold of Calvi, the hilltop village of Evisa, the ancient capital at Corte and Corsica's National Park. The eight-day tour leaves on May 10 and costs £895 for flights, accommodation in mountain auberges and all meals.

Scent ashore



AIRWAVES (0181-875 1188) has a 13-night cruise on the *MS Switzerland* visiting houses and gardens around the British Isles and Ireland. These include the Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh, the gardens of Cawdor Castle (mentioned in *Macbeth*) and the Arduaine Gardens at Oban.

In the Irish Republic there are visits to Powerscourt Gardens and Mount Congreve, and to Ilnacullin Garinish Island in the west. There is also a day at Lanhydroch in Cornwall, while the last port of call is the Isle of Wight with a chance to visit Osborne House.

The cruise, departing August 28, costs from £1,075 per person, plus £250 for excursions. It starts in Amsterdam and finishes in Dover, and the price includes a flight to Amsterdam and 13-nights' cabin accommodation with all meals.



VIVIAN RUSSELL

Villa Cicogna-Mozzoni in Lombardy: a 15th-century hunting lodge transformed into a grand country residence with splendid gardens

Just Jordan

REGAL Holidays (01353 778096) is organising a "Consider the Lilies" trip to Jordan, led by Martin Sands, senior botanist from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

The 12-night tour, leaving on April 18, also includes sightseeing in Jerash, Amman and Petra. Among the botanical sites: the limestone slopes of the Dibbeen Forest, the Yarmuk Valley where only the hardiest plants survive, Wadi Dana with an ancient grove of 15 old cypress trees, and a nature reserve managed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature — home to the black iris, Jordan's national flower. The tour costs £1,599 for flights and half-board accommodation.

Flower power

THESE operators also offer holidays with a horticultural theme: *Abercrombie & Kent (0171-559 8686)* — tailor-made and escorted tours to Italian Gardens. Andrew Brock Travel (01572 821330) — botanical tours to Europe, Madeira, the Azores, Madagascar, Georgia. Countrywide Holidays (0161-446 2226) — heritage weeks visiting National Trust and English Heritage properties and gardens. Cox & Kings (0171-873 5000) — botany and wildlife tours to Europe, Central Asia, Mexico and South Africa. Field Studies Council (01743 850522) — study courses in the UK and abroad. Gentle Journeys (0171-720 4891) — garden journeys to northern and southern Ireland. Jersey Tourism (0171-493 5278) — floral festival programme July 13-18. Kirker Travel (0171-231 3333) — Dutch bulbfield tours. Leicester Promotions (0116-254 7400) — weekend breaks in April, July and September. Page & Moy (0116-250 7676) — the UK in conjunction with the National Trust, and tours to Holland, France and Italy. Pride of Britain Hotels (01264 324400) — garden tours in England and Wales. Saga (0800 300500) — a new world-wide garden holidays brochure. Simply Travel Group (0181-994 4462) — spring flower tours to Corfu, Crete and Turkey.

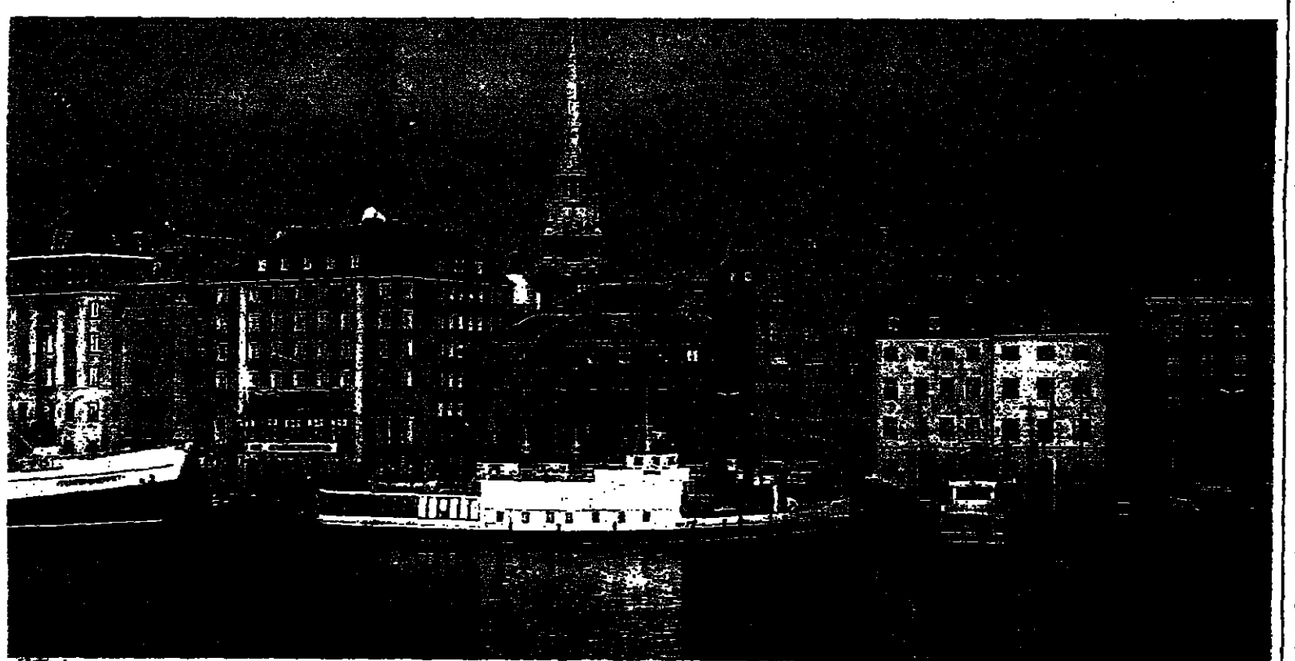


Monet's gardens at Giverny: inspiration for much of his work

COACH holiday operator Leger (01709 839839) has four-day "Monet's Gardens and the Châteaux of Paris" tours from April 10 to September 25. Prices are from £149 to £159, which include return coach travel and three nights' hotel B&B. Excursions to the Château of Fontainebleau and Monet's gardens at Giverny, which inspired so many of his paintings.

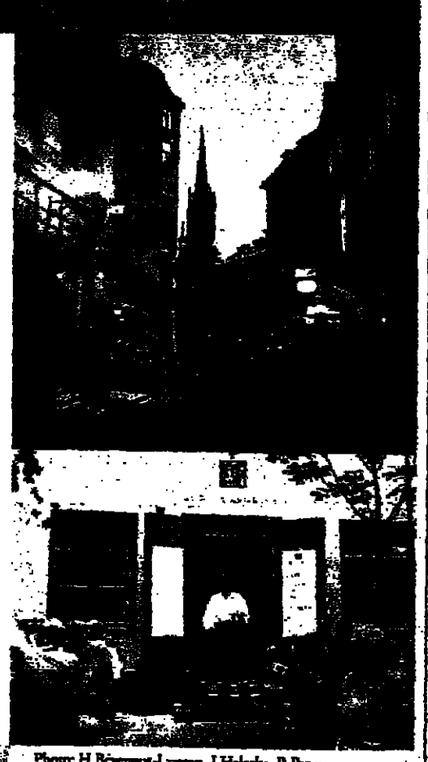
In 1998 Stockholm is the Cultural Capital of Europe.

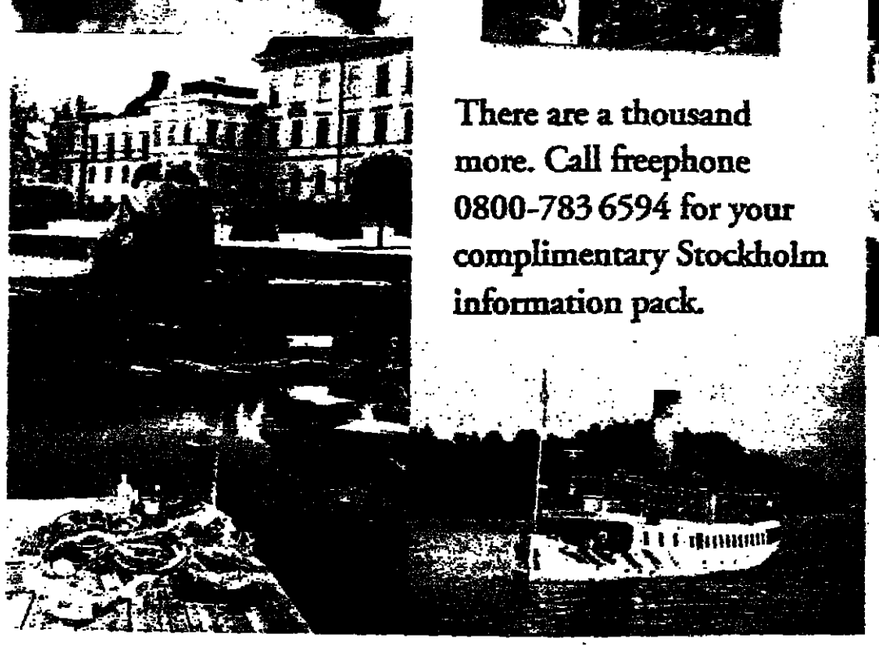
But that's just one reason to go there.











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Sweden

The following tour operators have package tours to Stockholm: Travelscene, Cresta. For more information about Stockholm: http:/www.stoinfo.se

PACK YOUR BAGS

☐ Fly to Paris by Concorde on April 10 or 11. One night's B&B with Paris Travel Service (01992 456025) has been reduced from £689 to £499 per person, including a one-way flight on Concorde and a return on Eurostar or a scheduled flight. Transfers and taxes are included.

☐ SKI Esprit (01252 616789) has a special deal for under-18s. Seven nights' half-board chalet accommodation in Morzine is £199 for children up to 17, and from £478 per adult. Flights, transfers and taxes included. Departs from Stansted on 29 March.

☐ BRITISH Airways' (0990 224224) World Offer to Antigua ends on March 31. Seven nights' accommodation only at the Royal Antiguan Hotel is £589 per person, departing April 13. Transfers and UK departure tax included.

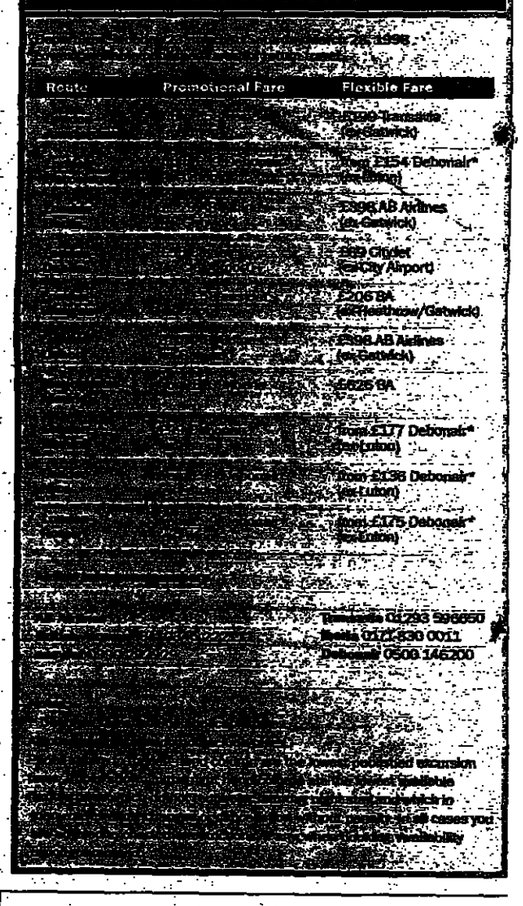
☐ THIS week only, Jetset (0990 555757) has three nights' half-board at the Peace Hotel in Beijing and sightseeing for £469 per person. Flights, transfers and taxes are included. Departs March 25.

☐ COSMOS (0161-480 5799) has 14 nights' full board at the Hotel Playa Escondida in Sousa, Dominican Republic, for £609 per person, including drinks, entertainment, flights, transfers and taxes.

☐ THE second Oxford Literary Festival runs from Friday March 27 until Sunday 29 March. Tickets are between £3 and £8 per event, from The Oxford Playhouse Box Office (01865 798600).

JOANNA HUNTER

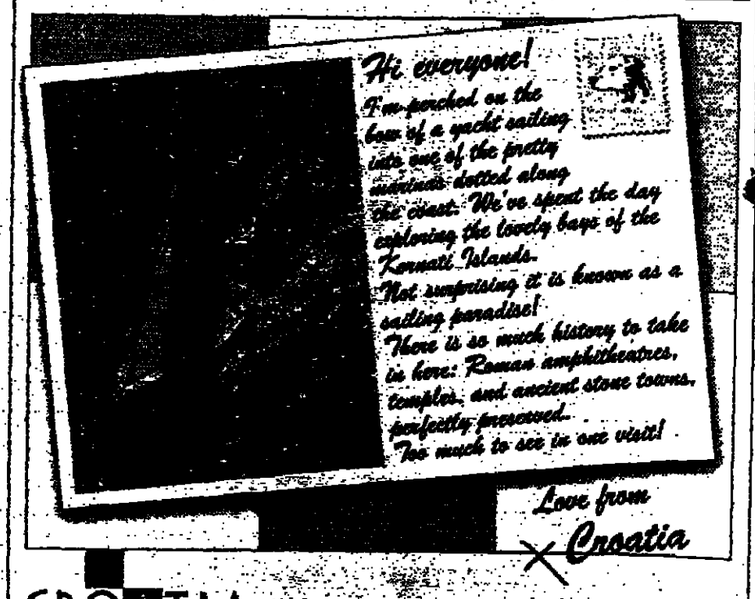
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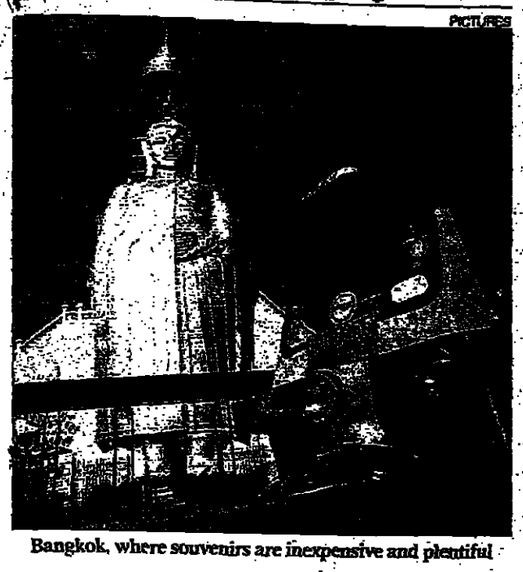


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Steve Keenan on the currency crash that has caused a shopping bonanza

PICTURES



Bangkok, where souvenirs are inexpensive and plentiful

Thai tourists cashing in

Britons are returning from Thailand laden with shopping bargains as tourists flock to take advantage of the country's currency crisis. Total visitor numbers rocketed by more than 13 per cent in January, despite arrivals falling from other cash-strapped countries in South-East Asia.

And despite the Thai baht this week reaching its highest level of the year, tourists are finding their pounds are still worth 70 per cent more than last summer. At the enormous Chatuchak weekend market in Bangkok last Sunday, Britons queued to withdraw more baht from hole-in-the-wall cash machines.

Sue Cunningham, 38, of northwest London, said: "I've been coming here for ten years and never had it so cheap. But you have to be careful — some of the traders are now marking up prices to compensate for devaluation."

She bought an antique wooden statuette of a Burmese monk and a century-old Burmese bible, both for less than £75. Another tourist, Monica Brewer, 28, from Cambridge, bought jewellery, a brass cat and leather goods for less than £40.

Impoverished Thai restaurant and bar owners have not dared to raise prices much beyond pre-devaluation levels, with meals rarely costing more than £2 and beers 60p.

British tour operators have been quick to capitalise. Tradewinds and Thomas Cook are among those launching dedicated Thailand brochures in recent weeks.

But Thailand's airlines and upmarket hotels are increasing prices as they attempt to recoup lost earnings. Bangkok Airways has added a 2,500 baht (£35) surcharge to the 5,300 baht cost of flights between Bangkok and the island of Koh Samui. And some hotels, including the Meridien in Koh Samui and The Oriental in Bangkok, are now quoting room rates in US dollars. The Meridien this week agreed its fourth price increase since July.

● Elegant Resorts (01244 897888) has reduced prices to Thailand. Seven nights' B&B on Koh Samui now starts at £1,035 including flights and transfers. A two-night stopover at The Oriental in Bangkok costs £180 per person.

Survive, then celebrate

Jennai Cox takes to the ice for an Antarctic millennium drink

Being woken at midnight to run a mile, swim across an icy lake fully clothed and help to haul a five-metre log uphill while carrying a 30kg rucksack are among the challenges that would-be millennium-dawn polar explorers could face on Dartmoor in June.

Following the success of the women's polar relay team trip to the North Pole last year, the organiser, Pen Hadow, is giving 32 people the chance to be among the first to see in the new century. Starting next year, four teams of four will each cover between 75 and 180 miles of a journey from base camps in northern Canada and the coast of Antartica to either end of the Earth. The final expedition should reach the South Pole on December 31, 1999, in the Antarctic summer.

Mr Hadow aims to have an English, Scottish, Welsh and an Irish person in each team. Among those already signed up for the selection course in the summer are a blind voluntary worker, an architect, a forensic scientist, a policewoman, a photographer and a housewife. "The women's relay proved that with proper instruction, people with no previous experience, even of hiking in Britain, can take part in a polar expedition."

Participants will be put through four days of non-stop activities and tasks across Dartmoor designed to test their endurance. Although temperatures of -50C cannot be replicated, levels of stress and fatigue similar to those experienced when trekking across ice can be, Mr Hadow says. "Anyone can tie their shoelaces at home, but can you do them up on a steep slope, with winds gusting in your face and frozen hands, after 12 hours of walking?"

Surprise being his greatest weapon, Mr Hadow will not reveal the kinds of tests in store, but says abseiling into water at midnight and covering huge distances on very little sleep are not unlikely.

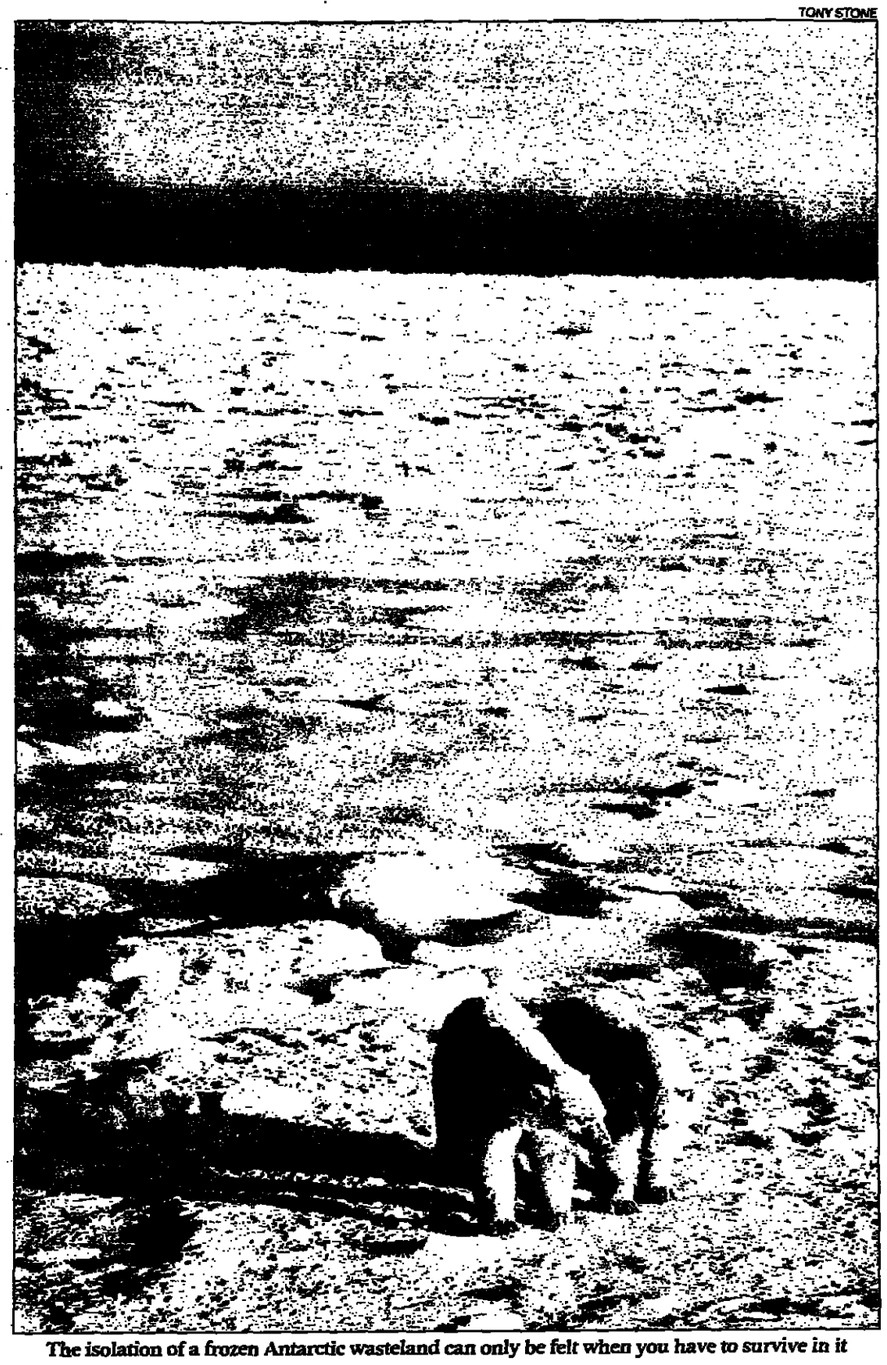
Successful candidates will have to raise around £15,000 each and need six weeks to take part: two weeks at base camp for intensive training in everything from clothing to safety and emergency procedures followed by up to three weeks on the ice and a final week to return and recuperate.

No matter how well they train, many will only understand the enormity of what faces them when they get there. Hours of wading through bogs or running up hills with blisters can never fully prepare people for Arctic conditions, Mr Hadow says.

"If you walk ten miles one day and wake up the next to find movement of the ice means you have drifted back 12, it can be very disheartening. People start to look for reasons to give up, and often they crack."

● *For information ring Pen Hadow at the Polar Travel Company: 01364 631470.*

TONY STONE



The isolation of a frozen Antarctic wasteland can only be felt when you have to survive in it

Crime warning for Madrid

FEARS over street crime in Madrid have prompted Air Miles to offer refunds to travellers. *Linda Galloway writes.* All Air Miles customers booked to travel to the Spanish capital have been informed about a Foreign Office notice on pickpocketing and mugging incidents in tourist areas of the city. "If you wish to cancel or change your booking," says Air Miles, "we will be happy to help you find a replacement destination or refund your payments in full."

Wanda Goldwag, Air Miles director, said the company was legally and morally obliged to inform passengers of any potential danger and to offer an alternative. Fewer than 100 of the Air Miles passengers scheduled to travel to Madrid in the next few weeks had elected to cancel or reschedule. The Foreign Office said it relied on information from British embassies abroad to assess the risk.

Travel insurance increase

HOLIDAYMAKERS will pay more for their travel insurance after the Government increased insurance premium tax to 17.5 per cent across the board in this week's Budget.

Previously, only policies sold through travel agents attracted the full-rate tax. Policies sold direct or through other outlets were charged a 4 per cent premium.

This will raise an additional £5 million for the Government this year, rising to £20 million within two years. The losers are travellers who cannot buy cheaper policies direct. It may also end free insurance promotions from travel agents. A spokeswoman for the Association of British Travel Agents said: "We wanted a 4 per cent tax but we are pleased there is now level competition for all."

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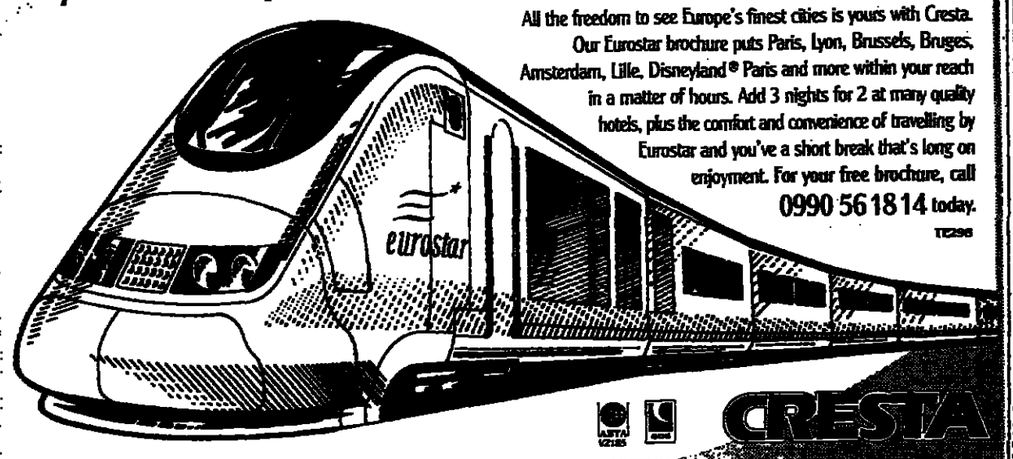
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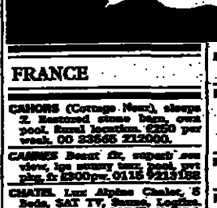
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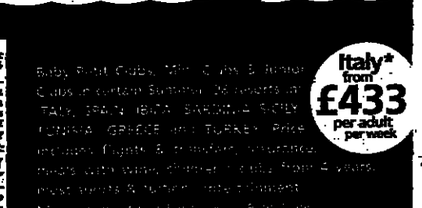
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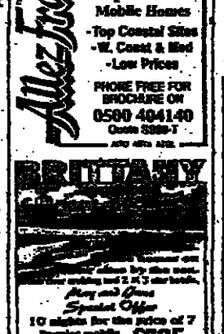
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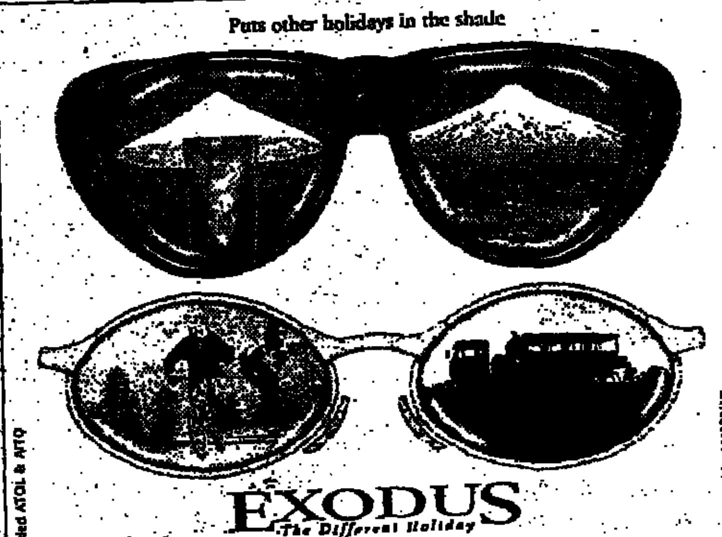
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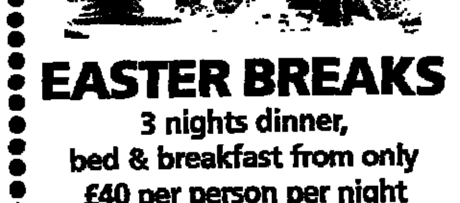
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ELEGANT striking woman, with auburn hair, slim figure, tall, quietly spoken, has been widowed 9 years. She misses the companionship of a close loving relationship and thoroughly enjoyed family life and supporting her husband generally. She would like to meet someone living in the Midlands, retired professional who enjoys travel, is fit, active, well educated, who also enjoys entertaining at home, dining out, country life, walking, animals. He should be between 62-72, over 5'9" tall No fee for introducing you to my client. Tel Heather Heber Percy, Country Partners 01432 342245 office hrs, or fax 01432 370381 Reply Box 1746

LADIES

COVERT Op English South Coast. Curvaceous strawberry blonde captive, needs 'Highlander type' modern adventurer/rough diamond/suited professional, 35-50 to plan and successfully execute a daring rescue mission as soon as possible. Objective: set up base camp together. Please apply with photo to Box No 1673

ENTREPRENEUSE (33) seeks entrepreneur (33-40) for joint romantic venture in Surrey. Like me, you are very attractive, fit, charming, happy, successful, genuine & have no ties. Letter only. Photo essential. Bx 1680

FILL my life with laughter WLTM 40s 5'9"+ fit n/s London White + photo to smiling female who turns heads slim not day special one! Bx 1701

FRIENDS say - you're fun, sparkling, intelligent with many interests but who will you bring to our dinner/theatre parties? So divorced bus/prof lady, slim, fair, attractive appearance is seeking similar workaholic, genuine n/s 58+ man. Interests could include philosophy, The Arts, sport, enthusiasm for travel but compatible chemistry a necessity. Wessex based but flexible Letters appreciated Bx 1759

FULL of fun and rather special, elegant, blonde, late 40s. Needs spoiling by kind successful gentleman 45-60. Photo please Cambs. Box 1696

GENUINELY gorgeous green eyed blonde, 38, 5'8, with sparkling smile and personality to match seeks tall hunky man with broad shoulders for life partner. If you are kind, sincere, equally at home on touchline at Twickenham or with Turner at the Tate and have a sense of mischief and a zest for life and romance then please write with photo to Box 1773

HUNGRY for new adventures? It's never too late if you're 50-60, live in the North-West, are fit and solvent and want to meet a bright, bouncy, warm and loyal lady who enjoys walking, skiing, sailing, theatre, travel, wine, music and food. Written replies preferred.Bx 1582

I marched on the 1st - didn't meet you - tall n/s silver fly-fishing nut around 50 wanted by late 40's Caucasian. Must have time for fishing and other outings and aspire to a genuine 1 to 1 relationship. S/SE. Photo and letter will be reciprocated. Reply to Box no.1736

LADY continental origin. WLTM a sincere gentleman for friendship, age around 70-75 years, London based. Box No 1787

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LONDON Attractive gentlemen required for our quality ladies. Dovetail tel 0171 483 3577

LONDON 'Elite' the One to One Introduction Agency for business and professional people. For a quality personal service call Elite 0171 637 7171

MY first time, here goes. 37, with gentleman to share empathic thoughts, sincere + caring. 35-45. Me, Ldn/Middsx, you - will probably have to travel. Photo please to Box No 1751

MY client is instantly likeable, down to earth, natural, well spoken, intelligent, well balanced, well travelled, town/country lover, very uncomplicated. Widowed six years, she now feels it is time to get on with her life. Living in Derbyshire & happy to meet people anywhere, would relocate. Interests include walking, golf, bridge, art galleries, old buildings, dining out, wines, cooking, calligraphy, travel (she has travelled extensively) it would be a bonus if there is someone out there who would enjoy some of the above pursuits, is fit, active, intelligent, fun to be with, age from 58-68, well educated, professional. No fee for introducing you to my client. Tel Heather Heber Percy, Country Partners 01432 342245 office hrs. or fax 01432 370381 or Box No 1744

NORTHERN IRELAND 'Elite' Because you're unique, we may have your lady partner open 7 days 01247 272 628

NOTTS/Leics/Lincs/Derbys 'Elite', 100's of attractive, articulate ladies, all ages, seeking quality men. Call Elite on 0115 937 6104 for free info

OPTIMISTIC attractive slim blonde late 40's into cinema, politics, music, health issues trvl- seeks compatible unpretentious fella. Box no 1786

PROFESSIONAL, slim, brunette, enjoys food, theatre, travel, GSOH, seeks intelligent, successful, kind male 48-58 of wit & style Sussex Bx 1768

RICHMOND Kingston Esher Elite + 25 mile radius 100's of members 0181 880 0028 7 days

RUSSIAN female artist, 31, tall, successful, attractive, often in London, would like to meet unattached professional gentleman, 35+. Letters only. Please Reply to Box No 1797

RUSSIAN/Ukrainian ladies seeking romance/marriage. WAIA Member 0181 447 0835 24 hrs

SALISBURY, Swindon, Bath, Bristol. Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

SCOTLAND. Slim, attractive English rose, late 30's, seeks country & animal loving, attractive male with GSOH who appreciates sunsets, sunny days, log fires etc, to share dinner/ theatre dates & thoroughly spoil me on occasions. Box No 1724

SMART, slim, streetwise, sophisticated, social, solvent, solo 40s lady. Requires fit, flirty, funny friend with funds. Please reply to Box 1513

STUNNING, tall, slim, 28, smart, successful (advertising), fun sparky, WLTM similar sought-after but discerning man, London, photo. Box 1702

SURREY Attractive gentlemen required for our quality ladies Dovetail 01932 783165

TWO beautiful ed women (30/34). Where are the attractive, ed, solvent sgl men (35-45) GSOH enjoy travel/sport/good food? Photo/letter box no.1772

UNUSUALLY attractive brunette, witty and charming, graduate with artistic interests, keen horsewoman, WLTM male counterpart, age 40/55. Please Reply to Box No 1808

URGENTLY required: a sense of humour, enthusiasm, loyalty and kindness all wrapped up in a caring man. I am a blondish brunette (47) living in Leicestershire. I enjoy walking, with my dog for company, and love the sea. Have you got the 'get up and go'? I'm looking for! I like laughter and conversation, good food and wine, and exploring new places. Photo appreciated-reply to Box 1798

VERY fit attractive early 40s independent female, slim & petite who loves sports, dining out etc WLTM handsome 5'8, 38-45 man who has similar tastes. Please write with photo. London/Hants Box 1787

WEALTHY man wanted by glamorous educated independent lady weary of battling through life alone. Her own business divorced late 40's one ... about fish cook tell funny stories & just as good in jeans or designer wear, the pub or Le Gavroche. V many qualities kind affectionate unpretentious tall slim dark eyes & still looking for gallant knight. If you identify with above, same age or older, genuine & prepared to spoil love & adore the perfect companion, please write with photo & phone to Box no.1725.

WE are seeking a special man on behalf of one of our very attractive women. You are a high flying and extremely successful, professional or businessman 36-48 accustomed to working and playing hard. You also appreciate the need to relax, unwind and be convivial while enjoying the finer pleasures of life. If you'd like to meet an intelligent and lovely woman who leads a similar lifestyle to yours and enjoys the country, cooking, keeping fit, water sports, travel and laughter, please call Mary Balfour at Drawing Down the Moon Introduction Consultants 0171 937 6263. SE.

WEST Country, Taunton, Exeter, Torquay, Plymouth. Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

Zzzzz, wake up! Club Encounters is open every day. Call us now free on 0800 141141.

GENTLEMEN

ACCOMPLISHED successful upper-class Englishman, personable, intelligent, wide interests, seeks compliant female with equally unorthodox attitudes. London. Please Reply to Box No 1807

ALONE in a crowd? Me too! Single, slim, sensitive, active, late n/s 6' tall 47, successful designer WLTM attractive lady, SW London Photo Bx1489

ANGLO Latin male, 6' tall, very young looking 37 year old described as very good looking by others seeks London based female who like me is too busy running his own company and is unimpressed by 1990s singles bars. Is there any female out there who can relate to my situation? Photo appreciated. Box 1769

ARCHITECT, 34, bulk of traditional foundations! 5'7", kind, considerate, good humoured and romantic. Varied interests include food, wine, laughter & keeping fit. WLTM attractive, sensitive woman, 25-35. North East/ Yorkshire. Box No 1467

BRIGHTON 'Elite'. For introductions in Sussex call Nigel on 01273 270975 Anytime

BRACKNELL, Reading, Slough, Newbury. Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

BRISTOL/Bath area. For local, professional introductions call Chris at Elite: 0117 973 6663

CALL Birmingham 'Elite' now - ... Contact Diane 0121 323 3314 7 days

CARDIFF, Swansea, Newport, Gloucester. Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

CHARISMATIC, cultured, charming, ... intelligent, well travelled, ... WLTM ... with GSOH, ... (40s), to share a ... of sunshine. Long ... & photo please. Please reply to Box No 1487

GENTLEMAN, ... personable, youthful 60, not 'super' ... background ... good, naughty ... of humour, ... and country walks, with ... Based 1 hour west of London. Reply to Box no 1741

HOLIDAY partner friendship service from United Travellers call 01428 723282 (24 hours)

GENTLEMEN

... 'Elite'. For introductions in Sussex call Nigel on 01273 270975 Anytime

BRACKNELL, Reading, Slough, Newbury. Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

As the first days of Spring appear through the rain ... successful, ... man, 40, living in ... seeks a fun loving younger woman ... Reply to Box No 1676

... LONDON 'Elite' the One to One Introduction Agency for business and professional people. For a quality personal service call Elite 0171 637 7171

LONDON Attractive ladies required for our quality men Dovetail Tel 0171 483 3577

LONELY, educated, cultured man in 30s, needs sensitive, like-minded, glamorous woman under 30 for 1st class holiday and intellectual pursuits. All expenses paid Bx 1808

MAN, green eyes, dark hair, 5'9", Sagittarius, turning 40, happy, caring, slim, London based, n/s, professional, graduate, hard working & successful in career without being obsessive, aspiring towards truth, trust & beauty. Seeks like-minded woman for love & a serious long-term relationship. Interests include cinema, theatre, books, journeys, countryside, walking, travel. Most important is a positive, easy-going attitude towards life, the universe & everything. I am probably the sort of man your mother would approve of! Long letter & a photo much appreciated. No voice mail. Box No 1481

MEDIC, 32, 6'2, dark and handsome. Fit, adventurous and financially secure WLTM a lady for love, life and interesting adventures. Photo and letter please. Midlands/anywhere Reply Box no 1782

MILLIONAIRE International businessman living in London with matching lifestyle is looking for that special person to be his companion, girlfriend and possibly more. I love travel, restaurants, theatre and occasional discos. I am tall, dark, handsome and mature. I lead a sophisticated international life. You must be intelligent, outgoing and with a bubbly personality. Above all you must be young and attractive. Photo and phone number appreciated. Reply Box no 1703

MY client is a retired successful, down to earth company director in his early seventies. He is fit, active, 6'1¼" tall, kind hearted, affectionate, quiet natured, considerate, sensitive, living East Midlands in beautiful countryside. Interests include foreign travel, theatre, cricket, wildlife, dining out. A thoroughly genuine man, who is attracted to a woman who is slim, takes care of her appearance, is pretty, feminine, over 5'5" tall, enjoys travel and is prepared to relocate. 60-80 ish. Preferably from the Midlands. No fee for introducing you to my client. Tel Heather Heber Percy, Country Partners 01432 342245 office hrs, or fax 01432 370381 or Box 1767

NORTHERN IRELAND 'Elite' Because you're unique, we may have your gentleman partner. Open 7 days. 01247 272 628

PUBLIC SCHOOL boy WLTM skating partner for holidays. I am 30ish, fit, n/s, single, ... Please reply to Box No 1446

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SALISBURY, Swindon, Bath, Bristol. Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

SINGLE man, 37, City/Surrey based, caring, loyal, honest. Enjoys music, cycling/skiing, ... Seeks woman to love & cherish. Box No 1785

SURREY Attractive ladies required for our quality men Dovetail Tel 01932 783165

TALL professional man, 43, single. Still looking for classy princess. She should be 34-44, slim, attractive & enjoy countryside. Letter & photo please. Please Reply to Box No 1809

WEST Country, Taunton, Exeter, Torquay, Plymouth. Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

GOOD-LOOKING business owner, 35, tall, dark hair, brown eyes, fit, fun, outgoing, caring, intelligent, romantic. Photo and letter preferred Bx 1716

37 in June. Handsome man, 6', successful, sporty, SOH. Seeks sexy, slim, sophisticated, sensual woman of similar age. Photo please. Box No 1780

IRELAND 'Elite' Because you're unique, we may have your gentleman partner open 7 days (00353) 1-6676270

SPRING is now here, with a sc... and a smile, and thoughts ... hopefully turning to look ... finding somewhere, ... special delightful good looki... n/s romantic lady, with a love ... smile and humour, who ... active and enjoys life to ... full, with GSOH. A little soph... tication, touched with elegan... and style, who with the rig... chemistry, will bring back th... real sparkle and a new meanin... into a lasting relationship, fi... of affection and TLC. Enjoyi... each others company, from p... low talk to drying the dishes ... walking in the Lake District, ... walking in Salisbury's. Its th... sharing that makes it all wor... while, whilst encompassi... romance, music, theatre, din... ing, countryside, walkin... travel, the home and muc... more, with a retired Charte... widower, a very young looki... and active, in his mid 60... slimish, 5'8, with a good life... style. Who would appreciate ... genuine reply, with a recen... photo from that lovely lad... allowing the sun to rise onc... again. Reply Bx 1802

VERY good looking, successful 36: seeks beautiful female companion 22-32 for fun romance. Photo plse London/H... Counties Bx 1662

VERY handsome, thirties guy with no ties (just open neck polo shirts) with expensive quality of life seeks slim elegant lady for eloquent dinner conversations. Photo optional Box no 1789

W SUSSEX/Hampshire 'Elite' Local, personal, special, discreet David 01705 413800

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GAY MEN Escape the scene! Let us introduce you to bright attractive gay men at our dinner parties/events. As featured on National TV/Radio. OUT & OUT (London) 0181 722 9245

GENTLE, tactile man, retired, very lonely widower, WLTM attractive, intelligent, petite lady, 50-60 years, for friendship/relationship. Could share holidays or whatever the lady wishes. N.London/ Herts. Photo appreciated. Box No 1222

GOLFER. Lasting relationships need lots in common. Are you attractive, perhaps a professional person bored with life's routine, keen on sports, especially golf, likes sun & travel, theatre, music & dining out, willing to live abroad & have a GSOH - age 30-37 & looking for a lifetime partner on & off the links. Letter & photo please. Please Reply to Box No 1440

GOOD LOOKING genuine English gentleman, Surrey area, slim, 52, looks much younger, n/s, solvent, own home, car, good job, no hang ups, 2 teenage children living at home most time. Enjoys dining out, travel, theatre etc. WLTM attractive, very slim woman, 43-48, easy going, warm, romantic, interesting, to wine & dine, travel with. etc. Photo essential please. Box No 1404

GOOD LOOKING man, 44, music lover, graduate, various cultural interests, seeks attractive, sensitive woman, 30-45, for friendship, tenderness, joyful times & lasting relationship. London area. Letters please. Box No 1352

GOOD LOOKING film-maker, 41, Jewish, loves travel, ... history, sport. WLTM ... pretty, slim woman, 30-38. London. Letters. Box 1489

HANDSOME guy, 37, fit & sporty, seeks attractive lady, 20's-30's, n/s, for exciting social life. Letter & photo. Box No 1389

INTERESTING 40s male, a lover of the great outdoors and the good things in life WLTM an attractive like minded spirit. Letters please Bx 1473

MAN, green eyes, dark hair, 5'9", Sagittarius, turning 40, happy, caring, slim, London based, n/s, professional, graduate, hard working & successful in career without being obsessive, aspiring towards truth, trust & beauty. Seeks like-minded woman for love & a serious long-term relationship. Interests include cinema, theatre, books, journeys, countryside, walking, travel. Most important is a positive, easy-going attitude towards life, the universe & everything. I am probably the sort of man your mother would approve of! Long letter & a photo much appreciated. No voice mail. Box No 1481

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Players Theatre - Join us for a very special theatre evening indeed. We have taken over the whole theatre for a private performance of the comedy '*Dinosaurs on the Dance Floor*' prior to its tour of the provinces. We start with a champagne reception and following the performance we sit down to a 4-course dinner with unlimited wine. Memb. £37, guests £47

Stringfellow's - Join us for a cocktail party at Stringfellow's includes buffet and wines. Memb. £33, guests £38

The Blue Elephant - Transport yourself back to Thailand at this most authentic Thai restaurant. Its reputation is well justified and has to be experienced, the flower and fresh herb bill alone exceeds £1,000 per week. Superb cuisine, attentive service and an ambience unmatched this side of the Pacific. Join us for dinner. Aperitifs, the Thai banquet and wines. Memb. £59, guests £69.

La Porte Des Indes - This is the Indian cuisine sister restaurant to The Blue Elephant. Probably one of the world's finest Indian restaurants. With over two million pounds spent on the decor it is an experience not to be missed, a sea of white marble, hand painted murals, hand carved sandstone balustrades, ornate wood carvings, hand embroidered tented ceilings topped by a 40ft Mogul waterfall. The restaurant is filled with exotic plants and flowers. The staff are in traditional costume and the service is superb. Accolades include "Best Indian Restaurant" and "Best U.K. Restaurant". Join us for an aperitif followed by a 4-course meal with wine. Memb. £58, guests £68.

Royal Garden Hotel - Join us for a dinner dance at this first class hotel with its restaurant overlooking Kensington Gardens. Memb. £67, guests £77.

Diva's - What a classy little club. Always fun, good food, good wine, good music, dancing until 1am. Why don't you join us? Aperitifs, 4-course dinner, unlimited wine. Memb. £54, guests £64

Langham Hilton - Join us in the splendour of this 'Edwardian' Hotel opposite the BBC in Regent Street, for a dinner/dance. Our evening starts at 8pm with a champagne reception for dinner at 8.30pm. The cost includes a 4-course dinner with sparkling water and unlimited wine to accompany your meal. You may stay until 1am and dance the night away. Memb. £67, guests £73.

These are a selection of our regular social events for unattached professionals. Members have the choice of over 15 events per month. Social membership costs £40 for 3 months, or £125 for 2 years (includes £40 worth of event vouchers).

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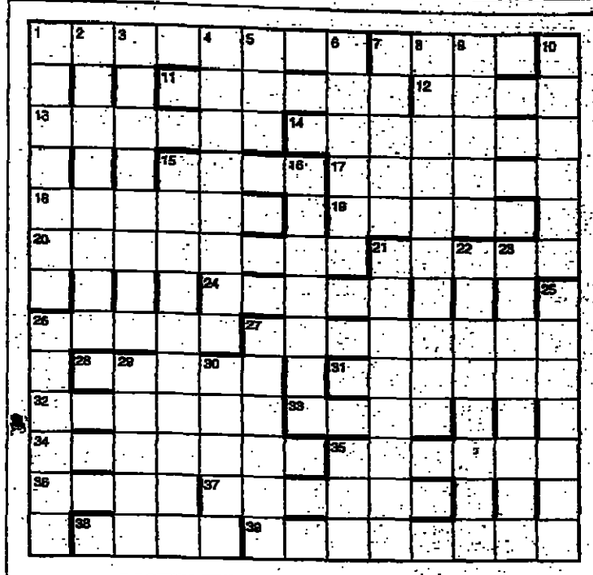
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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3454: Mixed Pairs by Ploutos



FIVE 11-letter words have been broken up into anagrams, once of an eight-letter plus a three-letter word, once of a six-letter word and a five-letter word. In each case the longer word appears as an unclued light while a clue is given to the shorter word (these clues appear in alphabetical order of their solutions). Solvers will need to pair up the words to be certain of their entries, and will then find that MIXED PAIRS has a significance beyond the title itself.

Fives and threes

Feature of twilled cotton
A couple of coppers for food for the cow
Petty criminal to go down
Show moderation with unknown Hock
Took old servant back
Island in due course built up in more than one estuary
Softly, softly, Scot's pursued by love
Return set on grass
Hat worn in India partly to negate rains
Went by the clock, hence lower returns

ACROSS

7 Scots cry out about Conservative scoundrel (4)
11 About four take fix in party in Sydney (6)
12 Isolated plant well from business centre (4)
13 Sing the praises of the best man (reeling outside!) (6)
14 Present's torn by dog (7)
15 Print of Lineker's first game (4)
19 Prepared to start without wife, agitated (5)
20 Urges on weeds, woefully sick at heart (8)
21 Builder who helped draw the line at slavery? (5)
24 For John's gain that's a computer (5)
26 Greenpeace test-case provides protection for whales (5)
28 Buzz off! I'm one that needs inner peace (5)
31 Prospero says we are, in distress, ironic (6)
32 Check a fish kept by seaweed (6)
33 Little kids walk unsteadily back (4)
34 Like end of paragraph (7)
36 Make a hurried escape with a priest (4)
37 Form of protection that's little advantage in Italian city (6)
38 Bare black lad's in trouble (4)

DOWN

1 One's unable to drag halfway through thorn (7)
2 Course of fowl reared in river (8)
4 Visits Northern goddess in beautiful area (5, 2 words)
5 Thirteen, we hear, but not me! (3)
6 Woos short Parisian with sighs at first (6)
7 Make sure about alternative for rail (5)
8 Is supervised by County General (10)
9 It's pleasant to conclude with festive ending (5)
15 It's largely played by the band, rest has choral works (10)
16 Develop writing we do outside (7, 2 words)
22 Sheriffs engage posse, perhaps, to follow rustlers' tail (8)
23 Aristocrat's to decide on a wife (8)
25 City state without head, hence may get into trouble (7)
27 One monkey hugging another monkey (6)
29 Molten and glassy materials are, principally (5)
30 Screen for display inside "Insensitive Love" (5)
35 Tea cup (3)

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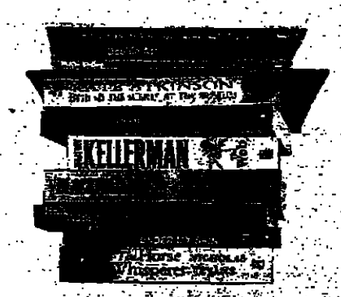
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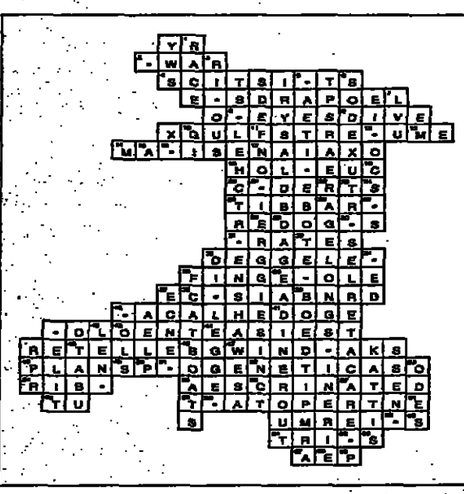
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3454, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, April 2.

W
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Solution and notes for No. 3451
Dots on the Map by Peeper

Dots in squares represent two or more groups of one or more letters which make up Welsh place names. These were, from the top of the map downwards: Holyhead, Rhyl, Bangor, Snowdon, Wrexham, Pwllheli, Bala, Dolgellau, Welshpool, Newtown, Aberystwyth, Knighton, Rhayader, Lampeter, Cardigan, Fishguard, Brecon, Carmarthen, Tenby, Swansea, Newport, Cardiff.

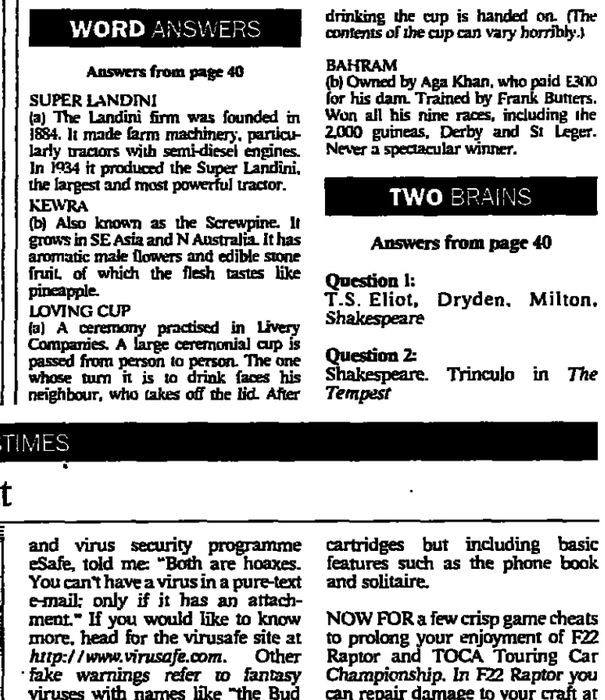
The winner is Andrew Parkinson, of Halifax, West Yorkshire. The runners up are K.G. Walker, of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire; M.J. and N.I. Hall, of Kettering, *Northamptonshire*; *Terry Wills, of West* Chiltington, Sussex; R.A. England, of Acton, London; Michael J. Grocott, of Loughborough, Leicestershire.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THIS IS a hand played at the Portland Club, reported by *The Times* man there, David Davenport. We have our informers everywhere. How would you play Six Hearts on a club lead? To give you a clue, Davenport calls the problem "the mirage".

Dlr South Love all Rubber Bridge



Contract: Six Hearts by South
Lead: the eight of clubs

I wasn't given the auction, but at the Portland Club they don't allow any conventions. One Heart — Six Hearts would be the sort of robust sequence they favour.

At the table the declarer was nervous that the club lead was a singleton. So he won in dummy and drew two rounds of trumps with the queen and ace. East showed out on the second round; declarer belatedly counted his tricks, and realising he would be one short if he drew the remaining trumps, played a diamond from dummy. East took the ace and gave his partner a club ruff, to take the contract one down.

The full deal is shown below:

Do you now see the winning line? This type of *trump holding*, in which you have all the pips and plenty of flexibility, is convenient for combining taking ruffs and drawing trumps at the same time.

The correct approach after winning the opening lead is to play king and ace of spades. Provided these stand up, declarer is home. He continues with a spade ruff in hand, a heart to dummy, another spade ruff and another heart, overtaking. Then he draws the last two trumps and has 12 tricks via two spades and two ruffs, four hearts in dummy and four club tricks.

The same technique would have worked if declarer's and dummy's heart holdings had been reversed. But to maintain communication declarer would have to take the ruffs in hand with the ace and king, to preserve the low trumps for entering dummy.

Davenport's "mirage" is South's diamond holding. Had he had say Jxx no doubt he would have spotted the correct line immediately.

WORD ANSWERS

Answers from page 40

SUPER LANDINI
(a) The Landini firm was founded in 1884. It made farm machinery, particularly tractors with semi-diesel engines. In 1934 it produced the Super Landini, the largest and most powerful tractor.

KEWRA
(b) Also known as the Screwpine. It grows in SE Asia and N Australia. It has aromatic male flowers and edible stone fruit, of which the flesh tastes like pineapple.

LOVING CUP
(a) A ceremony practised in Livery Companies. A large ceremonial cup is passed from person to person. The one whose turn it is to drink faces his neighbour, who takes off the lid. After drinking the cup is handed on. (The contents of the cup can vary horribly.)

BAHRAM
(b) Owned by Aga Khan, who paid £300 for his dam. Trained by Frank Butters. Won all his nine races, including the 2,000 guineas, Derby and St Leger. Never a spectacular winner.

TWO BRAINS

Answers from page 40

Question 1:
T.S. Eliot, Dryden, Milton, *Shakespeare*

Question 2:
Shakespeare. Trinculo in *The Tempest*

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE tournament in Linares, the highest ranked in the history of chess, was a surprise win for the Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand. Second place was seized by the former Latvian grandmaster Alexei Shirov, who now represents Spain. In shared third and fourth places were the two highest-rated players in the world, Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik. Here is the clash between the top two prizewinners.

White: Alexei Shirov; Black: Viswanathan Anand
Linares 1998
Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c6

Anand is one of the most versatile of grandmasters. The Caro-Kann does not normally form part of his repertoire, but he comes up with new ideas in almost any variation.

2 d4 d5 3 e5

A favourite of Nimzowitsch though largely ignored between 1927 and 1961 when it was taken up again by Mikhail Tal. The current popularity of the Advance Variation is mainly due to Nigel Short.

3 ... Bf5 4 Nf3 e6
5 Be2 c5 6 Be3

One of the chief insights of the modern practitioners of this line has been that the move c3, once considered an *automatic bolster of* White's centre, is not necessary.

6 ... cxd4 7 Nxd4 Ne7
8 c4 Nbc6 9 Nc3

Offering a gambit. Usually White plays 9 Qa4. If now 9 ... Nxe5 10 cxd5 with the awkward threat of Bb5+ at some point. However, Anand defends calmly and soon has equality so one must question whether 9 Qa4 is not right after all.

9 ... Nxd4 10 Bxd4 dxc4
11 Bxc4 Nc6 12 Bb5 Be7
13 0-0 0-0 14 Bxc6 bxc6
15 Ne2 c5 16 Bc3 Qb6

White's opening has achieved nothing. True, Black's pawns on the queenside are split, but his two bishops and ability to mobilise his rooks more rapidly on the d-file more than make up for this.

17 Ng3 Bg6 18 Qg4 Rad8
21 h4 h6 20 h5 Bh7

Seemingly aggressive but Black's king is well defended and White's king becomes more exposed through these pawn advances.

21 ... c4+ 22 Kh2 Bb4

Revealing one of the points about possession of the bishop pair: the ability to trade at one's chosen moment. This removes an attacker and inflicts pawn weaknesses on White's queenside.

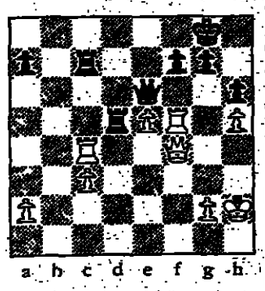
23 f5 exd5 24 Nxd5 Bxd5
25 Rxf5 Bxc3 26 bxc3 Qe6
27 Raf1 Rfe8 28 R1f4 Rd5
29 Re4

If 29 Rxc4 Rxe5 leaves White in an awkward pin.

29 ... Re7 30 Qf4 Rc7

Having tied White down to his e5-pawn, Anand prepares invasion with ... Rd3 when his c4-pawn will be well defended while White's pawn on c3 will be as a target.

31 Rxc4



Shirov banks on a possible defence in the difficult endgame.

31 ... Qxd5

With this pseudo-queen sacrifice, Anand takes play into an endgame where Black's rooks outgun White's queen.

32 Qxd5 Rxc4 33 Qb1 Rd8
34 Qb7 Rxc3 35 Qxa7 Rcc8
36 a4 Ra8 37 Qc7 Rdc8
38 Qb7 Re8 39 Qc6 Rac8
40 Qd7 Rcd8 41 Qc7 Rd5
42 a5 Rdxe5 43 a6 R5e7
44 Qc6 Rf8 45 Kh3 Ra7
46 g4 Rfe8

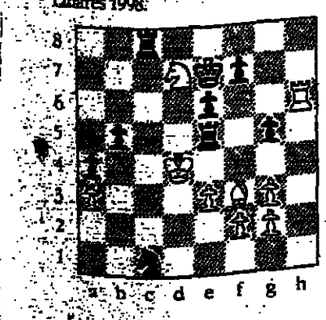
Since the white pawns are scattered, Black's rooks can simply mow them down one by one.

47 Kh4 Rxa6 48 Qb7 Ra5
49 Qc6 Rf8 50 Qb6 Rg5
51 Qb3 Kh8 52 Qb4 Re8
53 Qa4 Rd8 54 Qe4 f5
55 gxf5 Rf8
White resigns

WINNING MOVE

by Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Kovacevic - Tiviakov, Linares 1998.



Books on the endgame often advise players to use the king actively. As with all rules, this one has exceptions. How did Black make White regret his active king play?

The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers, on a postcard please, addressed to Winning Move competition, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1 Qxh7+

The winner is Dr David Hamilton, of Swale, North Yorkshire.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

NOT ONLY do we have to be wary of cybervandals, who release lethal viruses on the world, we also have to be on our guard for cybercrackpots, less talented villains who get their kicks with hoax virus warnings.

One hoax warning currently doing the rounds warns about e-mails promising the chance to "Win A Holiday". The text of the hoax reads as follows: "If you receive an e-mail titled Win a Holiday DO NOT open it. It will erase everything on your hard drive. Forward this letter out to as many people as you can. This is a new, very malicious virus and not many people know about it. This information was announced yesterday morning from (sic) Microsoft; please share it with everyone that might access the Internet.

"Once again, pass this along to EVERYONE in your address book so that this may be stopped. Also, do not open or even look at any mail that says "RETURNED OR UNABLE TO DELIVER". This virus will attach itself to your computer components and render them useless. Immediately delete any mail items that say this. AOL [(America Online)] has said that this is a very dangerous virus and that there is NO remedy for it at this time. Please practice cautionary measures."

Another, perhaps more obvious, hoax warns about a Free Money virus. This reads: "There is a computer virus that is being sent across the Internet. If you receive an e-mail message with the subject line "Free Money" DO NOT read the message. DELETE it immediately, UNPLUG your computer, then BURN IT to ASHES in a government-approved toxic waste disposal INCINERATOR. Once a computer is infected, it will be TOO LATE. Your computer will begin to e-mit a vile ODOR . . ."

Michael Glass of eSafe Technologies, which makes the Internet and virus security programme eSafe, told me: "Both are hoaxes. You can't have a virus in a pure-text e-mail; only if it has an attachment." If you would like to know more, head for the virusafe site at *http://www.virusafe.com*. Other fake warnings refer to fantasy viruses with names like "the Bud Frogs Screen Saver", "A Moment of Silence", "Join the Crew", "Valentine Greeting", "Irina", "Deeyenda", "Ghost" and "Penpal". The appropriate action is to ignore the message and not to pass on any messages regarding it. Meanwhile, should you get an e-mail announcing the chance to win a holiday or free money, go for it.



TONY STONE

Win a Holiday e-mails do not carry a virus, says eSafe

REMEMBER Tiger Electronics' *game.com* system released last year? This handheld game box also has the remarkable ability, using the cartridge slot, to link to text-based Internet and e-mail services. For it to work, you also needed a modem and an account with a suitable Internet Service Provider.

Although revolutionary, this feature alone has not been enough to shift the systems at £80 a time, even with two game cartridges thrown in. So Tiger has slashed the price back to just £35, excluding games cartridges but including basic features such as the phone book and solitaire.

NOW FOR a few crisp game cheats to prolong your enjoyment of F22 Raptor and TOCA Touring Car Championship. In F22 Raptor you can repair damage to your craft at any point by calling up the message entry screen (press T), then typing "we can rebuild him" and hitting enter. At a stroke your fighter is restored to its former glory and ready to take yet more poundings from opponents. Equally handy is the invincibility cheat, type in "there can be only one".

To call up TOCA cheats, enter other names instead of your own. For example, rather than overtaking other cars, you could simply drive straight through them. For this, you should log on as CMNOHITS. Rather than diligently slogging through the game to discover the various tracks, opt for instant access to all the tracks in the game at once with JHAMMO. You can race TOCA challenges in any conditions but nothing beats a little wacky weather. If you fancy racing while it is raining real cats and dogs, input the name CMCATDOG.

NEW SOFTWARE

TAKE 2's Postal is the latest title trying to earn itself the bad-taste tag so that, in the process, it can notch up above-average sales. Boldly going where *Grand Theft Auto* went before Christmas, here you play an arch villain from the wrong side of the tracks who thinks nothing of mowing down women and children in cold blood while on the run from the authorities.

Set in and around Arizona, you blast, shoot and bomb your way out of trouble. Each mission is completed when you have killed a high enough percentage of the population. The game is made up of 16 missions in different settings, like a wintry snow-capped forest scene, a small high street or a heavily fortified military complex.

Your villain, guided in a third person view, must also collect weapons, ammunition and the odd life in each scene. Some obstacles afford you limited protection from fast approaching good guys all shooting to kill. Your stray bullets will trigger the screams of dying civilians caught up in the carnage. The game looks and plays very much like Command & Conquer, except instead of playing soldiers here you are playing cops and robber. For all its novelty and blatant stab at controversy, *Command & Conquer* remains the superior title.

■ **Verdict: 6 out of 10. So-so 18-certificate game intended to offend. £34.99.**



Postal earns a bad-taste tag

IT IS difficult not to believe that the *Encyclopedia Britannica* salesman have slightly missed the interactive boat. While the company was still trying to push its costly multi-volume printed tombs with die-hard foot-in-the-door tactics, other software houses like Microsoft were spotting a gap in the software market. The time-honoured encyclopaedia was ripe for translation in the multimedia age — no other medium promised to bring alive thousands of subjects as skillfully with a rich blend of illustrations, features, sound clips and even archive footage. Encarta was born, along with a hundred impersonators, and a classic reference genre emerged effortlessly.

Encyclopedia Britannica has finally caught up with Encarta, although its Britannica 98 CD-Rom does not come cheap. Whereas Encarta sparkled with gimmicky interactivity, Britannica's entries err on the wordy and more worthy side. We have a swings and roundabouts situation with these two titles. You get gloss and efficiency with Encarta, whereas you get more detail and information at your fingertips with Britannica. Until now, Encarta's only real software competitor was Grolier, but the race is between Microsoft and Britannica this year.

■ **Verdict: 9 out of 10. The mighty — yet costly — *Encyclopedia Britannica* finally makes its CD-Rom debut. £125.**

SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 154

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The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Adrian Money, of Trowbridge, Wiltshire

هكذا من الأصل

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

Q We have an extremely handsome young butler who complains that occasionally he has had sexual advances made to him by some of our guests, both male and female, when they have had too much to drink. He is reticent about revealing the culprits, but has asked for advice. — Name and address withheld.

A Extracurricular activities of this kind, although ill-advised, are not unknown. There is a well-known story of an ambassadress who, bemused by the reaction of her guests to her irresistible Thai butler, forced him to grow a beard. Unsurprisingly this approach had only limited success, and I would suggest that your man falls back on steely semantics. Next time he has an unwelcome overture he should instantly adopt an air of unruffled detachment and respond with the line: "Thank you Sir/Madam for the offer, but I'm rather busy," as he glides off through the green baize door. Also, may I recommend that you are not quite so generous with the drink?



Q I recently attended the funeral of a distant aunt. There were three chief mourners, her son and two daughters. The younger daughter provided a buffet meal after the service for 20 mourners. I hope I did all that was expected of me. I sent flowers, passed on messages, sympathies and apologies for absence. I also wrote to the daughter afterwards. Should I have written to her brother and the other sister as well? — Mrs V. Moyses, Banbury, Oxon.

A Mourning manners, more than any other area of etiquette, are based on the twin qualities of kindness and consideration. Therefore it is appropriate for you to write separate letters of condolence to both the bereaved brother and sister, making sure that each communication is adapted to suit the particular circumstances of the recipient. Letters of this kind bring enormous and often long-lasting solace to the bereaved.

Q My wife and I are regularly invited to stay with various friends and members of our families in the country. An essential feature of the overnight stay is a visit to the bathroom in the small hours, the inevitable result of the copious quantities of beer and wine our hosts provide. Our quandary is: should one pull the chain and run the risk of awakening the entire household as a result of the ancient plumbing, or should one leave well alone, with the task being left to the first to rise (which inevitably will be someone other than us)? We seek only to ensure a good night's sleep for our hosts, as the last thing they want to hear is our fumbling, somnolent visits. — Name and address withheld.

A For entirely aesthetic and practical reasons it is always sensible to risk a nocturnal Niagara by pulling the chain after nighttime visits to the lavatory. This is because any noise, disruption and irritation caused pale into insignificance when compared with getting someone else's day off to an unsavoury start. The only exception is when you are the sole users of the bathroom, in which case you only have yourselves to offend.

Q How do I introduce the gentleman I live with and how does he introduce me? We are both free to marry but we have chosen not to do so for financial reasons. We have tried saying "This is my friend", which doesn't give the true picture. When we were together at first my "common-law husband" introduced me as his "better half", which is only suitable on light-hearted occasions. Is one ever justified in saying my "husband" or my "wife", which is so much simpler, if not legally true? Perhaps I should mention that we are both pensioners, so something reasonably dignified is required. — Mrs G.M. Morris, Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

A It is quite incorrect to introduce yourselves as husband and wife when you are not. The same applies to the word spouse and, of course, fiancée. Cringe-making euphemisms such as "significant other" and wet little terms such as "the person I live with" are also to be avoided. The old standbys "boyfriend" and "girlfriend", although quite acceptable, are better suited to younger couples. The term "lover" is rather embarrassing unless used to refer to an assignation in the past. The title "mistress" has particularly pejorative associations, whereas the term "companion" is unnecessarily genteel. This leaves us with the rather dreary description "partner", which although bland is innocuous, concise and popular.

Q When is it correct to wear short or long socks? I believe long socks should be for formal wear, but my friend insists that a man of more than 40 should never show an expanse of leg. — E. Harper, Smethwick, West Midlands

A I think we can defer to smart Italians on this one. They use the phrase *mezza calza* (literally meaning half-socks) when they wish to be derogatory about someone. It is thus that long socks are always correct and short ones never are, except for sporting activities such as tennis.

● *The author is Associate Editor of GQ*



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

SUPER LANDINI
a. High-ranking Greek officers
b. Very strong drink
c. A farm tractor

KEWRA
a. A Japanese expletive
b. A tropical tree
c. King Edward's charities

LOVING CUP
a. A drinking ceremony
b. A design of bra
c. End of Goodwood race

BAHRAM
a. A battleship lost in 1941
b. A triple crown winner
c. Heavy flaxen sateen

Answers on page 39

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

ZERAH Colburn was born in Vermont, USA in 1840 and at the age of eight demonstrated a remarkable ability for the mental multiplication of powers. In London in 1848, Zerah raised 8 to the 16th power, the answer being: 281,474,976,710,656. Meanwhile, as a further demonstration of mental powers, Mirat Arikan (born 1973) calculated the 39th root of an arbitrarily chosen 100-digit number in just 39 seconds, in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996.

Question 1:
At the annual meeting of the Dead Poets Society, a steward mixed up the letters of some of the delegates' names. Can you sort them out?
TOILETS, NERDDY, TOMNIL, EASESHEPARK

Question 2:
One of the above wrote the following. Can you identify it? "They say there's but five upon this isle: we are three of them: if the other two be brain'd like us the state totters."

Answers on page 39

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

One of the first e-mail messages I received from a solver expressed horror at my use of the word "critiquing". Perhaps I was influenced by the US linguistic environment, in which any noun can be verbed (actually, "critique" as a verb is included in the *Concise Oxford*). The staple crossword diet here is very plain by comparison with British cryptics.

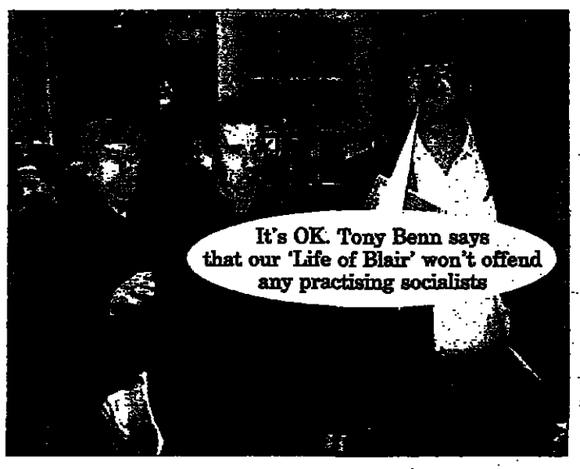
The *New York Times* puzzle, edited by Will Shortz, is typical. The grid looks very different, for a start, since it is conventional that *all* letters be checked. Consequently, there are many fewer black squares, and it is a matter of pride among setters to have large areas without black squares. This is facilitated by the acceptability of entries that would not be allowed in British puzzles, examples being RUE DE (died as Paris's *** Rivoli), ATL (It borders N.J.), ORY (Suffix with sens*), SIT NEXT TO (Accompany, as on a train).

Clues are straight definitions, though sometimes cryptically misleading e.g. Washington summit for RAINIER (mountain in Washington state), Diamond theft for STOLEN BASE — I am sufficiently enculturated to know that a diamond is the pitch on which baseball is played and a stolen base is when a player runs to the next base when the pitcher isn't looking.

However, cryptic puzzles are steadily becoming popular here. Stephen Sondheim contributed some as early as 1968 in *New York* magazine and recently *The New Yorker* launched a series using 8-by-10 barred grids. Each issue of *Games* magazine contains a couple of (easy) cryptics, and highly enjoyable counterparts of the Listener puzzle (though considerably easier) are composed by Emily Cox and Henry Rathvon in *Atlantic Monthly*, and by Richard Maltby Jr (another Broadway songwriter) in *Harper's*. Cox and Rathvon also have authored the excellent *Random House Guide to Cryptic Crosswords*.

● *The writer is Crossword Editor of* The Times

PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to suggest what Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, his girlfriend Sarah Macaulay and Ben Nye, 3, might be saying to one another before Budget day this week.

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN. The closing date is Wednesday, March 25.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Fred Simpson, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Newcastle girls are all dogs." — *Remark by Newcastle United chairman Freddie Shepherd to the club's vice-chairman Doug Hall at a club in Marbella*

"No, no, it's fine, honey, it's fine." — *John Travolta, playing the President, after being slapped seven times by first lady Emma Thompson during filming of* Primary Colours

"I remember thinking 'what in the world is he doing?'" — *Kathleen Willey, 51, alleging sexual harassment by President Clinton*

"For supposedly intelligent boys they did not pick the best place to smoke cannabis." — *Thames Valley Police spokesman referring to two Etonians caught smoking outside Windsor police station*

"If it's good enough for beagles, it's good enough for me." — *Richard Littlejohn discussing smoking in* The Sun

"Mr Brown might reflect that 80 per cent of the cost of petrol is tax while only 25 per cent of the cost of champagne is tax." — *RAC spokesman commenting on budget proposals for motoring*

"There were, like, lots of mentions of Prudence — 'who's she?'" — *School pupil, overheard on a train discussing Gordon Brown's budget speech*

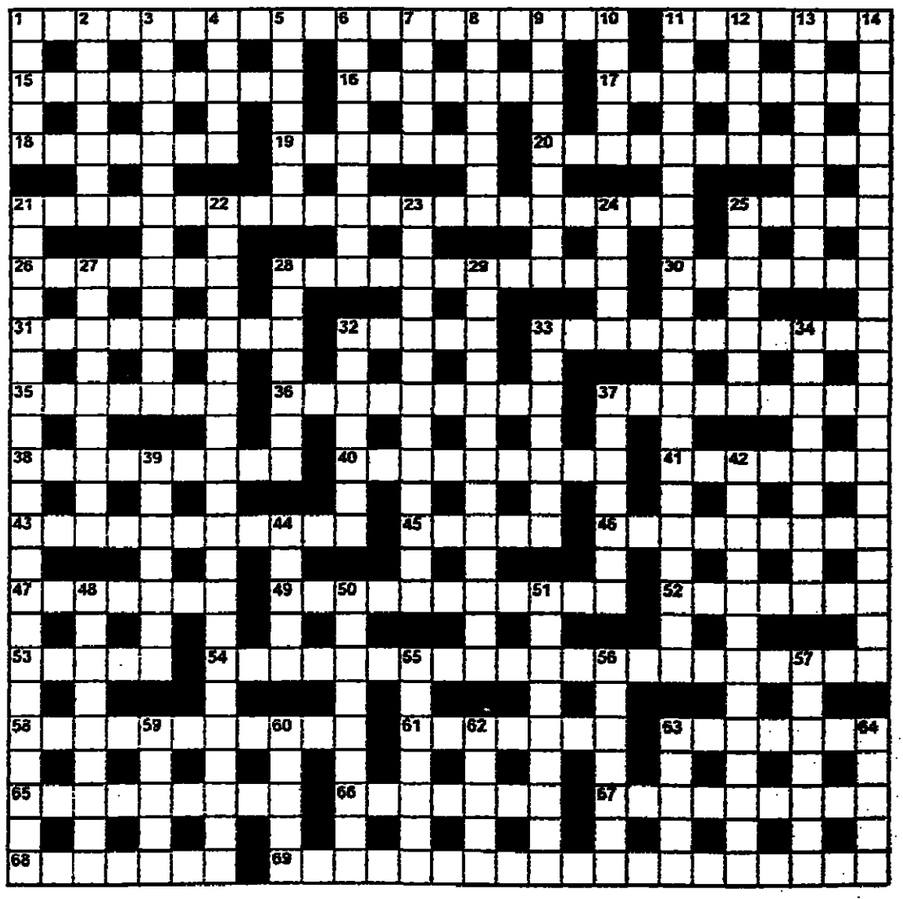
"I gave her a kiss but it wasn't much of one because I still had my lion's head on." — *Gavin Lucas who dresses up as Hercules the Lion, Aston Villa's mascot, after being sent off for going too far with Miss Aston Villa just before the match against Atletico Madrid*

"I have just got back from a detox clinic." — *Matthew Roman on before being arrested for registering eight times over the blood-alcohol limit in a police breath test*

JUMBO CROSSWORD 156



The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from black resin with a gold-plated clip, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 156, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Thursday, April 2. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on April 4



NAME .....

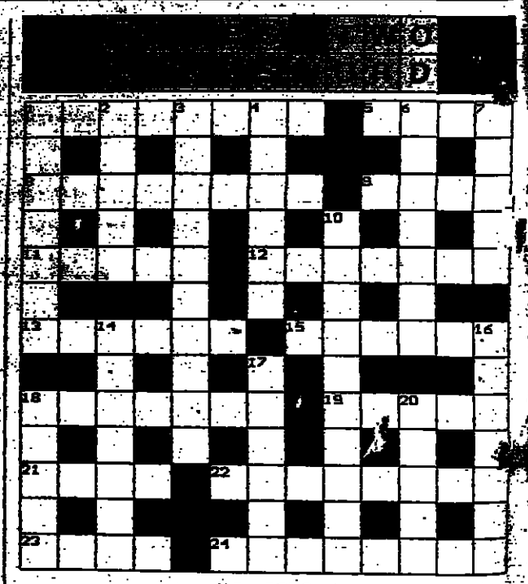
ADDRESS .....

.....

..... POSTCODE .....

ACROSS
1 What's to be gained by being idle? (12,7)
11 Nearby countries thwart leaders of attacking neighbour state (7)
15 Conference leaders will attend this big game overseas (5,4)
16 Visual twitching restricted by hydrated silica (7)
17 Endless festivities including golden tigers, for instance (9)
18 Attempt to restrict one fool in the name of God (7)
19 Larger than usual son rejected sad little boy (7)
20 Shy international has dog to confront yobbo (11)
21 Off at a tangent when what's twigged isn't right? (7,2,3,5,4)
25 Grumble from old lady about nothing (5)
26 Six deliveries with a run, then six without — how do they do it? (7)
28 Tiny imp sirocco blows about (11)
30 He stonewalled when facing northerners (7)
31 Complexities ruffled any critic (9)
32 Unusually cross with sequence in Antigone (5)
33 Paper publishing hours of church services? (6,5)
35 City girl, heartless, good when interrupting a pig (7)
36 I restore order finally? That's wrong — I'm disorderly (9)
37 One lacking the will departed? Then I should succeed (4-2-3)
38 Part of instrument in opera coming out with "ping" (5-4)
40 See me in the finish coming to a peak as editor (9)
41 Storm encountered on the way back — nuisance (7)
43 Woman having a nag may want this dress (6,5)
45 Bone embedded in pincushion (5)
46 At length, one is next for the chop (2,7)
47 Something bringing light to depressed county? (7)
49 Lousy girlie, converted, behaving so like a nun? (11)
52 Excellent gallery exhibits fabric (7)
53 Support star guests, removing odd characters from the scene (5)
54 Distraught kid is cut — theoretically the final result of Tom's folly (9,6,3,3)
58 Vague, possibly making a bundle? Fine! (11)
61 Thespian is terrible, drowning this musician (7)
63 Food — a cake mostly with fruit covering (7)
65 The reverse of creative work, with worker bringing in a bit of bread? (3-6)
66 Sensuous stuff that's primarily manifest in Beethoven symphony (7)
67 On the way home one leaves *Express* — maybe put on chair (2,7)
68 Unstable home pig comes from — lead off when the creature enters (7)
69 System used by New Yorkers to deal with the enemy (7,8,4)

DOWN
1 Coups etc involve disturbance (5)
2 Eastern politican having a row is relatively vacuous (7)
3 Here in Paris, Irishman in the course of farewell is not standing aloof (13)
4 Branch of knowledge typically revealed in final letters (5)
5 Coward exploits nothing, having minimal power (7)
6 Style of building with strange echoing housing old books (3-6)
7 Foreign beast left leaf on Asian plant (5)
8 Number joining prison party — I can't cope with it (2,3,2)
9 Completing dental treatment that's more expensive? (7,2)
10 Instruction for particular voice — English brought into diplomacy (5)
11 Dispose of fallen desert commander and fail to accept the situation (4,4,4,2,3,4)
12 Folk stories centred around one continental river (5)
13 With stronger reason two from Rome may hide gold under a military camp (1,3)
14 Emulate the *Independent* without full co-operation from the Yard? (5,2,4,3,3,4)
21 You'll need no one else's brass to arrange this kind of promotion (7,4,3,7)
22 Chess perhaps offers a situation for retaliated intransigence (4,2,5,3,3,4)
23 Someone about to knit may be daydreaming (13)
24 It could certainly contribute to gastric injury (5)
25 Triangular piece of material, one covering a garden plant (7)
27 Gents having bust-up with dear buddies? No longer so (9)
28 Is it likely old actor can blossom here in spring? (3,4)
29 Three types of Conservative, including traditional one, being incompatible (13)
32 Cut somehow, having tumble shortly before school (7)
33 Bitter, turning up in South America, creating a cloud (7)
34 Factory woman stays outside troubled province for many, many years (9)
37 Holy bishop, if replacing Latin, produces shock (7)
39 National Physical Laboratory shows some sense about puzzle (7)
42 Thumb abhorred being freak character teased by dog (6,7)
44 South African collects river worm (5)
48 Teacup Dot chucked in act of violence (4,5)
50 Look — old foreign money and English shillings tendered — not being tight? (9)
51 Self-styled thus, I may get remote, heartless (3-6)
55 I am on quiet ramble to get better (7)
56 Soviet previously valiant at sea (7)
57 Company covers deficit, one with big figures (7)
59 What water did at zero Celsius — or zero Fahrenheit possibly (5)
60 Narrow-minded, and being put up with? (5)
62 Like a Scot maybe, or one from more distant parts (5)
63 This bread is mine, thanks! (5)
64 Mound in spot left abandoned (5)



No 1359

ACROSS
1 Doll, disappointing episode (*loc.*) (8)
5 Fetter; James —, 007 (4)
8 In frail, insubstantial way (8)
9 Winged creature; prison (*slang*) (4)
11 Iron/carbon alloy: sounds like *pinch* (5)
12 Arise, flow (from) (7)
13 Mediaeval friar, pilgrim (6)
15 Apostate Roman emperor; type of calendar (6)
18 Element found in sand, computers (7)
19 Companion of Gog (5)
21 Giselle composer; water his ale (4)
22 Of the Great Flood (8)
23 Tax-deduction-at-source — system (4)
24 Carer for flock (8)

DOWN
1 Elevates (5,2)
2 Patrick —, Aus. Nobel author (5)
3 Bankrupt condition: (10)
4 Latest winner of title (6)
6 Jap. paper modelling (7)
7 Jump out of way of (5)
10 Air-expelling machine (6,4)
14 Baby-soothing song (7)
16 Mildly, persistently, irritated (7)
17 Make wealthy (6)
18 On the dot (time); out of tune (5)
20 (False) appearance (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1358

ACROSS: 7 Axis 8 Railroad 9 Homage 10 Tandem 11 Fuel 12 Eggshell 15 Neophyte 17 Pace 18 Savour 21 Tallow 22 Kingship 23 Cast

DOWN: 1 Exposure 2 Israel 3 Greenery 4 Hint 5 Trench 6 Yale 13 Great ape 14 Lacrosse 16 Plough 17 Palace 19 Adit 20 Ruhr

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